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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIV, Issue No. 91 | THURSDAY MAY 8, 2014 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

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OPINION METER
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ENVIRONMENT

Most Americans are already feeling man-made global warming and it's likely to worsen. ➤ PAGE 19

LIFE & STYLE

"Avatar" actor Sam Worthington is on track to get his New York assault case dismissed. ➤ PAGE 21

Grace period eyed for CW renewals

» For many who had to stop working for months, proposed rule came 'too late'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is proposing that Commonwealth-only workers be allowed to continue working for up to 240 days or eight months while their CW permit renewal applications are being processed. For many in the CNMI, the proposed relief came "too late" after being forced to stop working for several weeks and months.

DHS' proposed rule will be published as early as this week in the *Federal Register*, and the public is asked to comment on it.

The proposed rule will be available at www.regulations.gov.

This also comes some one-and-a-half

See CW on Page 4

Illegal pesticides smuggled in pickled vegetables

» No word whether govt will pursue criminal case vs importer

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Hundreds of packets of illegal pesticides from China were smuggled into the CNMI, concealed inside a 5-gallon plastic container and topped by a 3-inch layer of pickled vegetables, but a vigilant 23-year-old Workforce Investment Agency trainee with the Division of Customs Services discovered the deed. As of yesterday, it's unknown whether the Office of the Attorney General or another agency would pursue a criminal case against the importer.

Customs also called in other local and federal agencies due to the nature of the smuggling and the type of smuggled items, which could be used for purposes other than to terminate pests.

"This is a significant health hazard to the CNMI," Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said in a news briefing

See ILLEGAL on Page 4

Division of Customs Services seaport manager Greg Sablan, left, and Workforce Investment Agency trainee/customs inspector Don F. Teregeyo, right, show yesterday samples of smuggled powdered pesticides from China that were concealed in a 5-gallon container purportedly full of pickled vegetables.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Drug evidence goes missing at DPS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General was forced to drop the charges against a 64-year-old man after the evidence in the case—$100 worth of methamphetamine or "ice"—went missing at the Department of Public Safety.

This was not the first time for evidence to go missing while under the custody of DPS. Last October, two men accused of trafficking of methamphetamine or "ice" walked free after the prosecution admitted on the third day of the jury trial that the evidence may have been substituted at DPS.

See story on PAGE 2

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Local

'Ice' case dismissed after drugs go missing at DPS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General was forced to drop the charges against a 64-year-old man after the evidence in the case—$100 worth of methamphetamine or "ice"—went missing at the Department of Public Safety.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted yesterday the OAG's motion to dismiss with prejudice the information charging Nicholas Muña with trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Dismissed with prejudice means the case cannot be re-opened.

Muña's jury trial was supposed to start on June 23, 2014.

On Monday, assistant attorney general Chemere K. McField asked the court to dismiss the case, saying the government is unable to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt because evidence upon which charges are based upon can no longer be located by DPS.

Muna, also known as Tata, was first arrested on Jan. 21, 2013, after a confidential source of the Drug Enforcement Task Force allegedly managed to buy $100 worth of "ice" from him in Chalan Piao.

According to then-Drug Enforcement Task Force detective Dennis Reyes, Muña then agreed to help law enforcers as a confidential informant, provided that police allow his release without cash bail subject to certain conditions and restrictions.

Reyes said the court allowed the agreement and sealed the case.

However, after his release, Muña did not cooperate with police in their ongoing investigations, Reyes said.

That prompted the police to re-arrest Muña in March 2013, for failing to comply with the conditions of his release.

The court then granted the OAG's motion to revoke Muña's release from custody. The court also granted the OAG's request to unseal the case.

This was not the first time for evidence to go missing while under the custody of DPS. Last October, Judge Camacho dismissed all charges against two men accused of trafficking of methamphetamine or "ice" after the prosecution admitted on the third day of the jury trial that the evidence may have been substituted at DPS.

Camacho said that without the illegal controlled substance, it is impossible to find the two defendants guilty of all charges.

US: Russian planes more active in Asia-Pacific

WASHINGTON (AP)—The commander of U.S. air forces in the Pacific is reporting a significant increase in activities by Russian planes and ships in the region.

Gen. Herbert Carlisle linked that to the situation in the Ukraine. He said Russia was demonstrating its capabilities and gathering intelligence on U.S. military exercises.

Carlisle said there had been long-range Russian air patrols to the coast of California and a circumnavigation of the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam. He said an F-15 fighter jet had intercepted a Russian strategic bomber that had flown to Guam.

He also reported a drastic increase in Russian air patrols around Japanese islands and Korea.

Carlisle said there was a lot more Russian ship activity too.

He was speaking Monday at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank.

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IN SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE FILED VS COUPLE

Woman agrees to testify vs boyfriend, pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A woman accused of aiding her boyfriend in sexually abusing a minor at a motel pleaded guilty in Superior Court yesterday.

Daisina Suda, 41, pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace as part of a plea agreement. The government agreed to drop the charge of sexual assault in the first degree as part of the deal.

Suda, who was represented by attorney Samuel Mok, will be sentenced on May 14, 2014, after the trial of Suda's boyfriend and co-defendant, Parvej MD. Barpery, is completed.

Suda agreed to testify against Barpery.

In his judgment of conviction, Associate Judge Joseph Camacho said it is a harsh reality that prosecutors must often make reluctant plea bargains with defendants.

"This is one of those cases," said Camacho, noting that Suda's confessions to the police implicated Barpery.

Camacho said that Suda has a right not to testify at trial, while Barpery has a right to confront his accusers.

The judge said the Constitution prohibits the prosecutor from using Suda's confessions against Barpery if Suda herself does not take the witness stand.

Since there is no forensic evidence such as DNA, the prosecutor relies solely on the testimony of the young alleged victim, Camacho said.

He said the prosecutor desires a case as strong as possible against Barpery, who allegedly sexually penetrated the girl.

In an effort to strengthen its case, the prosecutor wants Suda to be a government witness. To do this, Camacho said, the prosecutor can grant immunity, dismiss the charges, or enter into a plea bargain for a lower sentence.

"It is an imperfect solution to a tragic situation," he added.

The government alleged that in May 2013, Barpery sexually assaulted the then 17-year-old girl inside a motel room in San Jose.

The government alleged that Suda aided Barpery in the sexual assault by bringing the girl to the motel, yelling at her, and physically restraining her during the sexual assault.

The alleged victim is now 18 years old.

Guam minimum wage hike would bring untallied costs

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— Hundreds of Guam government employees are among the thousands of workers who stand to earn more under a proposed minimum wage hike.

Legislature Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz introduced the measure, Bill 316. It would raise the minimum wage from $7.25 to $10.10 over three years.

Costs for public schools would rise by at least $600,000 a year to bring lower-paid employees up to the new minimum, the *Pacific Daily News* reported.

Over the three years, 442 employees in the Department of Education and 142 workers in executive branch agencies would benefit from the raise.

The bill doesn't include a financial impact statement, so its full costs are not clear. Cruz estimates the raise would affect 23,000 people islandwide, mostly in the private sector.

The costs to the Guam Department of Education would top $616,000 before any non-minimum-wage employees sought raises, said Taling M. Taitano, deputy superintendent of finance and administrative services at the department.

"I would suspect employees, particularly those already making close, but more than the minimum wage amounts, would hope for an upward adjustment," Taitano said.

A raise in the minimum wage would follow $15 million in pay raises for GovGuam employees that took effect in February.

While business leaders have criticized Cruz's bill, saying it doesn't do enough to forecast the effects on government revenues, Cruz has responded that such studies were not an issue in the previous round of raises.

Cruz also argued that the potential education cost increases are but a fraction of a percent of Guam's fiscal 2015 budget of $700 million.

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the DPW Channel Bridge and the Hafa Adai drainage on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

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Senate holds off action on cigarette tax hike bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senators held off action on a House bill increasing cigarette tax from $2 to $4 a pack, after the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee decided to further review the measure to strengthen its enforcement provisions. Moreover, the Senate panel recommends that instead of an outright $2 increase, it would be done gradually—$1 increase for two years after March 31, 2014, and another $1 hike thereafter to reach the $4 a pack cigarette tax.

"What good is increasing taxes if there is no proper enforcement of provisions in place?" Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), a member of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Manglona asked the committee to further review and amend the bill, before bringing it to the floor for a vote.

The Senate committee will work on the enforcement provisions with the help of the Department of Commerce's Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Control Division, Manglona said.

Prior to the Senate session last week, the Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) was already ready with its committee report.

The committee recommends amending House Bill 18-118, authored by House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), to make the $2 cigarette tax increase a gradual one.

"Your committee recommends that the cigarette tax shall be increased by $1 for a total of $3 per pack for two years after March 31, 2014. Thereafter, the cigarette tax shall be increased by another $1 for total of $4 per pack," the committee said in its three-page report.

Of the eight members of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, six signed off on the report.

The committee acknowledges the increase in non-communicable diseases in the CNMI, and its negative impacts.

The panel notes public comments that the original bill's intent of increasing cigarette tax by $2 is "excessive and that it could potentially hurt businesses."

Others said imposing steep cigarette tax would force many to resort to buying illegal or smuggled cigarettes, which would have lower prices.

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee said it still strongly believes that the promotion of healthy living in the CNMI outweighs the costs of raising cigarette taxes.

"Your committee, however, finds that a gradual increase in the cigarette tax achieves the intent of the bill while making the tax increase more palatable to the business community," the report said.

ILLEGAL

From Page 1

at the Customs seaport office yesterday afternoon. Customs is one of the divisions under Finance.

Larson commended the personnel that intercepted the illegal powdered pesticides and other undeclared items.

Illegal pesticides—which have non-English labels and are unauthorized to be imported to the CNMI—were not the only ones discovered. A total of 120 bottles of hard liquor that were declared only as cooking wine, which would have been assessed a lower tax, were also found, said Customs seaport manager Greg Sablan.

Customs director Joe Mafnas identified the importer as Yin Jia Corp.

As a result of these interceptions, Mafnas said that Customs would be implementing a policy wherein importers will be required to not only give a business name but a physical address, a business license, and business gross revenue tax filings, among other things, to determine whether the importer is in business rather than just a front for illegal activities.

In this particular case, Mafnas said that Yin Jia Corp.'s representative, identified as Dong Gui Li, operates Green Consume stores on Middle Road and As Lito.

Mafnas questioned why the importer had to use another business name rather than Green Consume, which is a known store on island.

Also at the news briefing was Division of Quarantine inspector Mark Pangelinan.

'Odd'

Customs inspector Don F. Teregeyo, 23, was assigned to inspect a 20-ft.container from China at the seaport on April 30, and he was the one who discovered the smuggled items, along with customs inspector Lt. Ray Renguul.

Teregeyo is a WIA intern with Customs for only a few months, and this is his second interception of illegal items in just a few weeks' span; the first one was the discovery of some 40 pieces of counterfeit Burberry, Coach, and Lacoste women's wallets and purses.

In an interview at the customs seaport, Teregeyo said he found it "odd" that an importer would bring in a plastic container along with other merchandise in a 20-ft. container. Teregeyo was among the 11 that recently completed the second cycle of basic customs training.

He said the moment he opened the 5-gallon container, a pungent odor came out of it. He saw what he thought was pickled leafy vegetables.

Teregeyo said the importer's representative, identified by the Customs director as Dong Gui Li, told him it was just a container of pickled vegetable.

"She told us it's food and to prove to us, she ate some of it," Teregeyo told *Saipan Tribune*. But he said he wasn't convinced so he reached into the pickled vegetables with his gloved hands and pulled packets or sachets with non-English labels. The initial assessment was that they were illegal pesticides.

Customs and Quarantine also called in the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the latter confirmed they were pesticides that are not supposed to enter the CNMI.

As to any criminal case, Customs said this is beyond the division's jurisdiction. It's not known whether the CNMI government—or at least the Office of the Attorney General or BECQ—would pursue criminal charges against the importer.

Larson said the manner in which the pesticides were smuggled put the health and safety of inspectors at risk. Moreover, she said importers that try to smuggle items into the CNMI are hurting the economy.

"We're taking this seriously," she said, adding that Customs continues to assess the 20-ft container.

Mafnas said it has come to Customs' attention that illegal pesticides are a "hot item" on the island, especially among farmers.

He said Customs earlier intercepted a small bottle of pesticide worth $75.

Hard liquor

Customs' Sablan said they also found in the 20-ft container 10 cases of hard liquor that were initially declared as cooking wine. They later found out that they contained 55 percent alcohol, and are considered hard liquor that would make them eligible for a higher tax rate.

Each case contains 10 bottles of hard liquor.

Mafnas said Customs imposed a penalty of $3,000 on the importer, Yin Jia Corp. Customs also has yet to assess the proper tax for the hard liquor.

CW

From Page 1

years since three of the CNMI's biggest business and employer groups asked DHS' U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to allow continuing employment for CWs whose permit renewals remain pending past the expiration of their original permits.

"We were told to stop working since about middle of March because our CW permits already expired and our renewal applications were still pending. It's only this week we're told that we can go back to work because the [renewal] applications were approved. We couldn't do anything about it," one affected employee told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The hotel employee said it's unfortunate that the proposal that DHS announced yesterday came "too late" for him and many other CWs. The employee requested anonymity, fearing retaliation from his employer.

Last year, for example, a security agency had to order many of its employees to stop working for three months because their CW renewal permits took much longer to process.

For others, DHS' proposed rule would still be helpful especially if the CW program is extended beyond Dec. 31, 2014.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), in a statement yesterday, said many of the employers and workers who go to his office for help are caught in this bind.

"They have applied for renewal, but the paperwork has not been completed. Then, the current CW permit expires. Employers in this predicament cannot hire someone, knowing that in a week or two, their current employee may be approved. So the business has to limp along short-staffed," Sablan said.

Employees are legally barred from working once their CW status expires, even if there is an application pending.

"So how do they feed themselves and pay their bills? Providing a grace period, as DHS is proposing, seems to make sense," Sablan said.

'Permanent structure'

Alex Sablan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that the 240-day grace period for CW permit application processing is "welcome news" and "definitely a permanent structure needed to ensure the CW workforce is not penalized waiting on CW renewal applications to be processed."

"This ensures businesses are not unduly interrupted in their daily operations providing services to tourists and the community at large and, as important, that we not impact badly needed tax dollars that support essential services of the CNMI government and its residents," the Chamber president said when sought for comment.

He said the Chamber will comment on DHS' proposed regulations once published in the *Federal Register*.

Employing US citizens

Delegate Sablan said he would be concerned, however, if employers would use the grace period as an excuse to wait until the last minute to apply for a renewal or that DHS would take its time making decisions, knowing they have 240 days.

"Ultimately, too, we have to ask: how does this affect local workers who are looking for jobs? We have to be sensitive to the needs of business. We have to be compassionate about foreign workers whose efforts help our community. But we also have to keep up the pressure to employ locals wherever possible," Sablan said.

The delegate said they will have to see exactly what the proposed rule says and then what comment comes in from the public before making any final assessment.

"We also cannot permit any change that would allow employers to file for renewals after a permit expires," he added.

The Chamber of Commerce president said they agree with the delegate's statement on continuing to encourage "employers—members or not—to employ a U.S. citizen workforce where ever possible."

"It is imperative that everyone that can remain in the CNMI do so, as our impending tourism boom will require every able-bodied person in the CNMI to remain here and join the ranks of the local workforce, to help grow our economy," Alex Sablan said.

Besides the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Marianas Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands asked USCIS as early as 2012 to authorize continuing employment for those with pending CW renewal applications.

SHRM, when sought for comment yesterday, said it strongly supports the 240-day grace period but at the same time recognizes the possibility of abuse and will stress the importance of timely actions among its members.

"With regard to the possible effect on the employment of local workers, SHRM would like to point out that in 2012 and 2013, it successfully managed two federal grants that involved the training and placement of U.S. qualified workers. The Society's management team succeeded in placing roughly 80 percent of the participants through the cooperation and support of its member companies. These grant programs were a benefit to the community and SHRM is proud of its involvement. They should have been continued and SHRM is prepared to do so if additional grant funding is available," SHRM added.

'Creating hardships'

SHRM said the cut-off of the employee's authorization to work immediately upon the end of the visa period has created a "hardship for both businesses and employees from the first visa extension period."

"Even when the employer submits the petition well in advance, the processing time often goes beyond the visa end-date, especially if there is a request for additional information before approval of the extension," SHRM told *Saipan Tribune*.

It said this problem was recognized early and brought to USCIS' attention "with no previous effect."

"The lack of flexibility in this situation has left businesses without valuable employees and those employees without income until it was resolved—often for several months. This long overdue adjustment to the regulation is both practical and humane," SHRM said.

'Still in limbo'

SHRM also said this grace period will simply be a positive adjustment to an ongoing, unresolved problem.

"The CW visa program is still in limbo and this action does not change that. However, the SHRM Chapter appreciates this step and sees it as a positive action that will benefit the community's businesses and employees, as well as the tourists and citizens that they serve. SHRM looks forward to continued growth of the CNMI economy and a need and a future for increased local employment with a continuing requirement for non-U.S. workers," it added.

U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez has yet to make public his decision whether to extend or not the CW program beyond Dec. 31, 2014.

Without such an extension, the CNMI loses immediate access to some 10,000 foreign workers that have helped build and run the local economy for years and decades.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is considering writing a follow-up request letter to the U.S. Labor secretary to extend the CW program by five years or up to 2019.

Nationwide

The delegate said yesterday that the DHS proposal is nationwide in scope.

In addition to the Commonwealth-only CW status, Sablan said, the 240-day grace period would also apply to high-skilled, specialty occupation professionals from Australia, who have E-3 visas, and from Chile and Singapore, who have H-1B1 visas.

He said several nonimmigrant categories already allow workers to continue for 240 days while their renewals are in process, including H-1 temporary workers and H-2A seasonal agricultural workers.

DHS will also be proposing that the spouses of H-1B visa holders be allowed to work in the United States. H-1B visas are provided to scientists, engineers, computer programmers, and other specialists.

Employers will often petition for H-1B workers to obtain green cards and become lawful permanent residents. The proposed rule would allow the spouses to work, once the petition for a green card is filed, Sablan said.

DOJ and FBI settle lawsuit for $554.80

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have agreed to pay $554.80 to Jin Dong Wang to settle his lawsuit over the FBI's alleged withholding of investigation records into his beating by a police officer.

Wang, through counsel David G. Banes, and assistant U.S. attorney Mikel W. Schwab as counsel for the U.S. government jointly asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday to dismiss the case.

Banes and Schwab said each party shall bear its own costs and fees, including attorneys' fees. They asked the court to retain jurisdiction to enforce the settlement.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed the case on Tuesday.

The settlement is not to be construed as an admission of any liability or fault of the United States.

Wang agreed that the settlement "is solely the compromise of any past, present, future, and potential contested claims for the purpose of avoiding further controversy and litigation pertaining to the covered conduct."

Under the settlement deal, once the U.S. pays the settlement amount, Wang will release the U.S. from any civil or administrative monetary claims.

In Wang's complaint filed in federal court in August 2013, Banes said the DOJ and FBI illegally withheld investigation records into Wang's beating by police officer Jesse Dubrall during a botched drug raid at his house in As Lito, Saipan on Oct. 18, 2010.

Wang sued under the Freedom of Information Act to compel DOJ and the FBI to release these agency records that were allegedly withheld from him. Those records relate to the FBI's investigation of the incident.

Banes asked the court to declare that failure to release the records as unlawful.

In October 2013, the U.S. government disputed Wang's complaint and denied any liability or any wrongdoing whatsoever.

Banes and Schwab agreed that this settlement agreement is "neither an admission of liability of the United States nor a concession by the United States that its claims are not well founded."

The CNMI government, the Department of Public Safety, and police officer Dubrall settled Wang's police brutality lawsuit in November 2013.

That settlement includes a series of cash payments to Wang and five years of medical treatment at the Commonwealth Health Center for the injuries he sustained during the incident.

Without disclosing the amount in the settlement, Banes said the CNMI government will shoulder the cash payments.

Wang filed the police brutality lawsuit over the injuries that he suffered when police officers wrongfully seized him at his house in As Lito on Oct. 18, 2010, mistaking him for another drug suspect they were looking for. Dubrall allegedly used excessive force, beating Wang savagely and hitting his head with a gun's butt during the botched operation.

Wang was hospitalized for serious injuries in the head, abdomen, buttocks, and legs.

Vicente B. Babauta, a former police officer and now an investigator at the Office of the Attorney General, later concluded in his investigation that Dubrall acted appropriately during that operation and determined that Wang's allegation of brutality was unsubstantiated.

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US govt files additional charge of witness tampering against Roberto

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Attorney's Office has filed in federal court an additional charge of witness tampering against former acting CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife director Raymond Borja Roberto.

The second superseding indictment filed Tuesday charged Roberto with two counts of enticement of a minor and one count of witness tampering.

The two counts of enticement of a minor are contained in the first superseding indictment.

Roberto, through counsel Joaquin Torres, pleaded not guilty to all charges during yesterday's arraignment.

The jury trial for the case was originally set for May 12, 2014, but Torres asked that it be moved to another date. The prosecution did not object.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy later set the scheduling conference for May 12, 2014 at 10am.

Roberto was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal after the hearing.

On the new charge of witness tampering, assistant U.S. attorney Rami S. Badawy stated in the indictment that the offense happened on April 24, 2014, while Roberto was detained pending trial.

Badawy said Roberto attempted to influence the testimony of an individual and tried to persuade the same individual to alter, destroy, and conceal evidence.

With respect to enticement of a minor charges, Badawy said Roberto persuaded two minor girls to engage in prostitution or in sexual activity from March 1, 2013 to July 18, 2013.

DLNR to apply for $220K SCBG farm bill grant

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S Department of Agriculture has once again made the CNMI eligible to apply for a $223,187.88 Specialty Crop Block Grant that could help the Commonwealth's farmers.

The purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, which is handled by the Agricultural Marketing Service, is to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

The deadline to apply for the grant is July 9, 2014.

Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios confirmed that they will be applying for the grant.

"We are actively looking at the Farm Bill grant, collaborating with Rota and Tinian and other partnering agencies," he said.

Palacios noted that the grant would be for fiscal year 2015.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) told *Saipan Tribune* that the funding has been allocated for a specific recipient that is DLNR.

"The Northern Marianas DLNR is eligible to apply directly to the USDA for this grant fund," he said. "This is to help contribute to food safety improvements, increased access to healthy food, and new research to help growers increase profitability and sustainability."

DLNR-Division of Agriculture director Manuel A. Tenorio said they are looking at using the grant to expand agriculture programs and potentially expand other areas.

"We will be applying for the grant that is available to expand all our programs. So far we still have ongoing projects under the SCBG farm bill that are still in effect," Tenorio said.

Tenorio said there are three programs under the current SCBG farm bill: school garden, residue program, and hydroponics.

According to Tenorio, the school garden program teaches students about agriculture by showing them how to plant and grow seedlings.

"Basically students are doing agricultural practices for 'hands-on-experience' and maybe entice some of the kids to go into agriculture," he said.

The residue program tests crops for chemicals, particularly those that are sold at the Sabalu Market.

"We let the farmers know if the crop they are selling is safe or not because it's a public health issue," he said.

The hydroponics program, Tenorio said, is in conjunction with NMC-CREES to help educate the public about this style of growing crops.

"We are partnering with NMC-CREES and also collaborating with Chacha Oceanview Junior High School's agricultural students," Tenorio said.

In related news, in a letter to DLNR's Palacios, Delegate Sablan said that federal funds are vital to the operation of the Commonwealth government.

"For that reason, I am sending you a table of the federal programs that I have recommended to the House Appropriations Committee and the level of funding I am supporting for each in fiscal year 2015," he wrote.

When *Saipan Tribune* asked of "possible grants" for an irrigation system in Kagman, Tenorio said that he is looking into the grants that had been sent out to him by Sablan.

"There are many grants available that could be used and so far we are looking into it," Tenorio said.

Sablan said he wanted to make sure that DLNR was aware of the process to help determine the federal programs that are funded, how much money each receives, and ultimately the federal funding for DLNR.

COTA applies for $4.7M TIGER grant

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority has finally submitted its application for a $4.71-million Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery Grant VI with the U.S Department of Transportation.

If approved, the grant will go toward COTA's plan to build a Fixed-Flex Route and Paratransit System on Saipan—essentially a public transportation system.

The TIGER grant comprises both a capital and planning grant.

COTA administrator Tom Camacho said the capital grant amounts to $3.71 million while the planning grant is $1 million.

"We submitted the grant on April 28 and we should be hearing from USDOT before or on September," Camacho said.

Part of the capital grant will be used to buy eight 24-passenger low floor medium-built buses, he said.

Camacho also noted that about $450,000 would go to bus stop infrastructure. This requires setting up 150 temporary bus stops that have already been identified by an ad hoc committee under the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board.

It will also be used for three transfer stations and one mobility hub for the fixed-flex route system.

About $185,000 will be used to purchase transit technologies such as smart cards, GPS vehicles, radio, and PDA communications.

Of the funds that will remain, it will be spread out based on the bus system's five-year service plan: A total of $570,000 will be used in Year 1, $320,000 in Year 2, $220,000 in Year 4, and $220,000 in Year 5.

As for the $1 million planning grant, about half will be used to create a sustainable transportation master plan for the CNMI that will guide the islands' transportation system for 25 years and beyond. Camacho said this would be the road map for the next 25 years for COTA.

The other $500,000 will be used for the expansion of the CNMI-Guam ferry system feasibility study.

"Basically, the planning grant of the TIGER grant will be expansions and planning toward Rota, Tinian, and Guam," said Camacho.

He said the bus route system will first be launched on Saipan and eventually on Tinian and Rota.

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UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is hereby gives notice that it will hold its 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting on May 13, 2014, from 10:00am –2:00pm at the Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. ROLL CALL
III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – December 30, 2013
V. ACTION ITEMS
  a. Approval of CRSP MOA between CDD and Ayuda Network, Inc.
  b. Approval/Ratification of Proposed FY 2015 Budget of Commonwealth Respite Services Program (CRSP)
  c. Approval of the Amendment to DD Basic Grant FY 2014 Budget to include total allotment award
  d. District Court Re-Payment
VI. REPORT
  a. Chairman
  b. Executive Director
  c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  d. State Plan Committee Chairperson
VII. OLD BUSINESS
  a. Commonwealth Respite Services Program (CRSP) Rules and Regulations Update
  b. AD Hoc Committee update
  c. CNMI Job Fair
  d. COTA update
VIII. NEW BUSINESS
  a. Autism Awareness Month
  b. Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Training
XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
XII. MISCELLANEOUS
XIII. NEXT MEETING
XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.
In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

2 casino biz plans now with commission

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two business plans submitted Monday to develop a casino resort on Saipan have since been turned over to the Lottery Commission for compliance review and evaluation. Besides the business plan, the two applicants also deposited $30 million each in escrow to be further considered for the coveted license.

"As this is the duty of the commission, the [Inos] administration reserves further comment on this matter," press secretary Angel Demapan said Tuesday in a statement.

The four-member commission headed by Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar is scheduled to begin reviewing the proposals during today's scheduled meeting.

"Any further comments concerning the proposals should come from the commission," Demapan said.

The commission has until June 19 to decide on the applications.

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), main author of the Saipan casino bill, said Tuesday the public should now allow the Lottery Commission "to do its job as required by law and come up with a best decision."

Demapan said the government can soon start realizing additional revenues and satisfy its obligations, including the restoration of retirees' deferred 25-percent pension using the $30 million from the winning applicant. The losing applicant will get its $30 million deposit back.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said the $30 million deposit in escrow for each of the applicants shows that "investors see an opportunity" on Saipan.

"Otherwise, they wouldn't have submitted a nonrefundable $1 million application fee, which is a big money, and now they deposited $30 million each in escrow. All indications are there that they are serious in trying to get a license to build a casino here. I'm glad we are in this stage now," Sablan added.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Burglary, vandalism at Kagman school

NMI Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a burglary and criminal mischief incident that occurred at the Kagman Elementary School.

On Monday, April 5, 2014, at about 6:15 am, DPS Central dispatched police officers to a reported burglary and vandalism incident located at the Kagman Elementary School. Police learned from school employees that they first discovered traffic cones scattered throughout the parking lot. Then they noticed the bulletin board had been damaged, and two water faucets in building "C" had been broken, with gushing water flooding the parking lot.

The cafeteria was in disarray. Fruit juice containers, water bottles, and napkins were scattered over the cafeteria floor. Cleaning agents were poured onto cases of beverage stored in the chillers, refrigerators, and storage areas, making the drinks unfit for consumption. This was the third time the school was vandalized in recent months. The crimes occurred sometime over the weekend.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(NMI Crime Stoppers)***

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LOCAL SPORTS OPINION LETTERS TO THE EDITOR LIFE & STYLE ENVIRONMENT BUSINESS COMMUNITY CAMPUS LIFE FOTOGALLERIA PACIFIC BIBA MARIANAS!
BREAKING NEWS
House OKs Fitial extradition request
E Land: Sheraton or Hilton brand for former The Palms
As Gonno fire was a double homicide
2 bodies found inside burning
Island Snapshots – May 2014
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DON'T BET WITH MY ROCK!
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HEADLINES
ADVISORY FOR
NEW
SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEBSITE
LOCAL NEWS
The Saipan Tribune is currently beta-testing its new website. So, yeah, it still has some issues. We appeal to our readers to bear with us as we tweak the design and fix some bugs and we promise, it's going to be more awesome, more user-friendly, and with more useful features once we're done with it. For those who would like to provide any feedback or suggestions, or if you just want to vent and complain, email us at editor@saipantribune.com.
MUST CLICKS
Global brand also for Coral Ocean Point
House approves Fitial extradition resolution
Flores wants 62-pct. hike in his budget
Humanities Council to host student film festival
No assurance on CW extension
CNMI woman turns 100 years old today
Saipan casino bill up for House vote today
COMMUNITY
Community Briefs - May 1, 2014
COMMUNITY BRIEFS - April 30, 2014
COMMUNITY BRIEFS - April 28, 2014
LIFE AND STYLE
Final Four Spring Break Sonnets
Fun With Food
Scrumptious Sonnets
ENVIRONMENT
EPA solicits Environmental Award nominations
Film explores troubling truths about impacts of illegal fishing on sharks
Happy Earth Month from EPA!
CAMPUS LIFE
Aldan of NMIS wins first place in original oratory
UOG board renews Underwood
Leon Guerrero elected board chair; Fong elected vice chair
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Detailed information and application form are available at Front Desk.
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A. Samoa economy generated $1.2B in 2012

The 377 business establishments in American Samoa generated $1.2 billion in sales in 2012, employed 7,070 people and paid $114 million in annual payroll, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 Economic Census of Island Areas: Geographic Area Series for American Samoa.

Every five years, the economic census provides the most authoritative and comprehensive source of information about the entire U.S. economy, including U.S. territories. The 2012 Economic Census statistics for American Samoa are not comparable to 2007 because only firms with paid employees are included in the 2012 Economic Census, whereas in 2007 firms without paid employees were also included. In 2007, more than 99 percent of all sales were from businesses with paid employees.

American Samoa is a U.S. territory in the South Pacific Ocean.

American Samoa had 55 businesses with 20 or more employees in 2012, representing 14.6 percent of all businesses. These businesses accounted for 83.2 percent ($960 million) of total sales and 75.7 percent (5,350) of total employment.

In 2012, capital expenditures totaled $73.4 million. This is the first time that capital expenditures statistics have been collected for American Samoa. The new data will help provide more complete inputs to the calculation of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The statistics for American Samoa are available through the Census Bureau's American FactFinder, an online search tool that allows users to access, filter, manipulate and extract statistics. Statistics for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands were released April 29. Data for the U.S. Virgin Islands will be released July 15; and Puerto Rico statistics will be released in 2015.

More information about the Economic Census of Island Areas is available at http://www.census.gov/econ/islandareas/index.html. ***(US Census)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Open House meeting on ESA listing

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be holding an Endangered Species Open House Meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, from 6pm to 8pm at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center in Garapan.

The agency is considering whether certain species in the Mariana Islands warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act through listing and critical habitat.

The Open House meeting will provide information on 23 species in Guam and the CNMI that are under consideration for listing as either endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, 16 (nine plants and seven animals) of which are found in the CNMI. The information meeting will provide an opportunity for interested parties to learn about the process for the proposed listing and critical habitat rule, and for agency personnel to answer questions. ***(USFWS)***

Do Re Mi Music School's 22nd Annual Violin Recital

The Do Re Mi Music School is having its 22nd Annual Concert on May 9 and 10, from 7pm to 9pm each evening at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Tickets are available by calling 233-7777 and will also be available at the door: $10 for adults and $5 for children. The concert will include pieces from Tchaikovsky, Paganini, Wentawski, and Mendelssohn, among others. The Do Re Mi Music School's talented and award-winning students, under the direction of Ao Zhang, always provide an enjoyable evening of fine music. Come and enjoy. ***(PR)***

MCS club to stage *The Little Mermaid Jr.*

The Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club, under the guidance of Galvin Deleon Guerrero, presents Disney's *The Little Mermaid Jr.* on Friday, May 9, and Saturday, May 10, at the Mount Carmel School Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30pm.

Tickets cost $10 for preferred seating and $5 for general seating

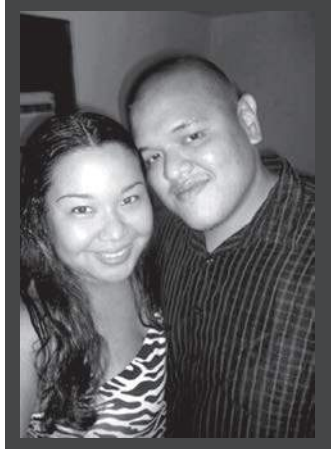
The Little Mermaid Jr. will feature music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater, and book by Doug Wright. It is based on the Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film. Music adapted and arranged by David Weinstein.

For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(MCS)***

CCA board meets on Tuesday

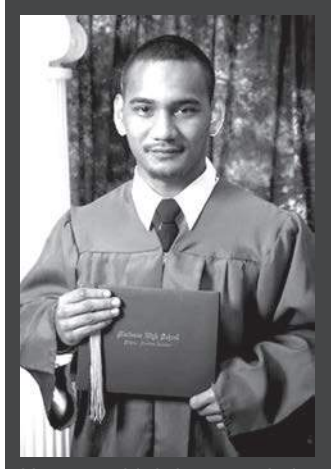
The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



You are to me what water is to trees, honey is to bees and milk is to cheese. Happy birthday to Shawn Camacho, the man who made me believe in true love all over again. Birthday greetings coming from your wife, our daughter Shalei Terrie, and all your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 21 birthday to my baby brother, Frankie Jr. Aldan Ramangmou, and congratulations on your gradation as well! Yes, you're finally legal in all 50 states bro! May you enjoy your day with many blessings! Greetings come from your big sister Stacy and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than May 21, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, May 16, 2014.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 8, 2006

Fund asked to write off $124M liability
The Fitial administration is pushing for the write-off of $124 million unfunded liability with the NMI Retirement Fund. At the same time, it is asking the Fund to provide a $40-million revenue bond for the financially bankrupt Commonwealth Utilities Corp. In a bill titled "the Defined Benefit Plan Rescue and Reform Act of 2006, which was submitted to the House of Representatives Friday, the administration said the proposed measure would provide the CNMI government "with a fresh start." It said the government's accumulated unfunded liability with the Fund totaled $123.7 million since 1995.

Defined contribution plan proposed
If enacted into law as proposed by the Fitial administration, all new public employees and eligible existing government employees would have their own "portable individual retirement accounts" on or after Jan. 1, 2007. In a bill submitted to the Legislature Friday, the administration aims to create a Northern Mariana Islands Public Employees' Defined Contribution Retirement Plan, making it the single retirement program offered by the government to its employees. The bill defines defined contribution plan "as a plan in which savings are accumulated in an individual retirement account for the exclusive benefit of the member or beneficiaries."

May 8, 2007

201 miss financial disclosure deadline
Some 200 government officials missed the deadline for filing financial disclosure reports. According to the Office of the Public Auditor, only 222 of the 423 certified filers have submitted their financial statements as of the annual deadline, May 1. Fifteen more filed a day after the deadline, while 186 remain in violation of the Ethics Act requirement. Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan said OPA had not received any requests for extension as of yesterday morning. Sablan said OPA had made numerous efforts to remind the filers of the requirement and would continue to do so.

Head Start review team said impressed with NMI facilities
A seven-member Head Start Office review team recently flew to the islands for a procedural review and came away reportedly impressed with the Head Start Program services and facilities in the CNMI. Review team leader Dr. Nancy Hutchins said they were all very pleased with the CNMI program and its many services. In terms of its facilities, she said Head Start centers in the Commonwealth are quite impressive. "We would be envious in our region, such as in Alaska, because there the facilities are not as nice, not as well furnished. This program has wonderful facilities here," she said. She said the team was also pleased with the services being extended to children in the CNMI.

May 8, 2008

Emergency regs seek cap on alien worker numbers
With President Bush expected to sign the CNMI immigration bill into law, the Department of Labor has drafted emergency regulations that will effectively cap the number of alien workers in the Commonwealth. A draft of the public notice of emergency regulations, a copy of which the Saipan Tribune obtained yesterday, amends Chapters 3 and 6 of Public Law 15-108 that came into effect just this February. The goal and objective of the emergency regulations is to "require that the number of alien workers in the Commonwealth on the effective date of these regulations not be exceeded during the period of 12 to 18 months after the effective date of these regulations."

Bishop undergoes lung surgery
Bishop Tomas A. Camacho underwent surgery Wednesday to remove a section of his lungs that had become affected by lung cancer. According to Dr. Mark Grattan, Camacho's cardiothoracic surgeon at the Straub Hospital in Honolulu, the lung cancer was at an early stage (Clinical Stage 1), with no clinical evidence of spread, "and it was completely removed." After the surgery, Camacho was alert and in stable condition, according to Dr. James U, Hofschneider, his primary care physician on Saipan. Camacho would still need to remain in Hawaii for another two weeks in order to recuperate.

CNMI Team bags 8 awards in drill meet

The CNMI Team shone at the recently concluded 2014 Golden Bear West Coast National Drill Competition in the U.S. mainland, bringing home eight awards this year.

According to Saipan Southern High School acting principal Jonathan Cabrera, the Manta Ray Battalion, along with Buck Battalions, did the Commonwealth proud as they emerged winners in many categories.

He disclosed that the Manta Ray Battalion won the following honors: second place in Armed Sweepstakes (Varsity); first place in Armed Regulation (Varsity); third place in Armed Color Guard (Varsity); third place in Armed Dual Exhibition (Varsity), cadets Amante Andrada and Conrad Calub; and third place in Unarmed Color Guard (Novice).

The team also won first place honors in Unarmed Tap Out, cadet Jude Palacios; first place in Armed Tap Out, cadet Sunny Li; and Most Outstanding Armed Commander, cadet Jude Palacios.

"Though the teams came from different islands and different high schools, in California the students worked with one heart and one mind to represent the CNMI with pride and diligence and grace. Together, the students from Saipan and Rota were Team CNMI," according to Cabrera.

CSM Richard Basa, the SSHS JROTC instructor who accompanied the students, was also very proud of their accomplishments.

"The cadets worked hard, and those who will be continuing in the program next school year… are already gearing up for the next competition. They want to win the regionals so they can have the honor of returning to L.A. to compete nationally," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that students spent close to a week stateside preparing for the competition and, because they all shared the same practice drill pad, they were able to see the hard work and perseverance of all the student representatives from the CNMI.

According to cadet Steffie Alipio, "This was an experience of a lifetime, and I hope we get to [go] back so we can win first place in all the events."

This year's Golden Bear West Coast National Drill Meet took place on April 26, 2014, at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base.

This competition was founded in April 2000 and has grown to be one of the largest national drill meets of the West Coast in the United States. A whopping total of 62 schools, including four from the CNMI and Guam, participated this year. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Japan Market Manager
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Native fluency and proficiency in the Japanese language required. Minimum three years experience in marketing hotels and other tourism related facilities in Japan required. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Server
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Position will require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred. Fifteen (15) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Housekeeping
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in housekeeping or commercial cleaning preferred. Computer literacy is required for this position. Must have a friendly personality and willingness to provide customer service. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Landscaper
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Two (2) years of experience in related field strongly preferred.
Six (6) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Mechanic & Electrician
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum of two (2) years of formal mechanical experience or mechanical training is required. Two years of experience in related field strongly preferred. Two (2) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Bellhop
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. A valid Driver's License is required. Experience in a hotel environment preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Front Desk Clerk
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in a hotel front desk and/ or concierge position strongly preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification will be a required for continued employment. Must have friendly and outgoing personality. Four (4) positions are currently available.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576.
Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 14-023 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Assistant Engineer
(Mechanical)

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Senior Engineer or his/her designee. Assists in the designs, executes, coordinates, and oversees assigned pieces of projects to ensure adherence with applicable specifications and standards. Assists the public with a variety of inquiries and requests; provides technical information on projects. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION(S): Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $ 23,200.00 per annum - $ 32,574.00 per annum.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.
POSITION(S): One (1).

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Basic project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-024 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Senior Engineering Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Chief Engineer for the Water and Wastewater Division or his/her designee. Uses advanced technical computer applications to support engineering functions of the Division. Compiles As-Built drawings and expertly incorporates the data into existing composite system drawings. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION:
- Main Office at Joeten Dandan; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Sadog Tasi Offices of Water and Wastewater; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Fieldwork on Saipan and temporary projects on Tinian and Rota also possible, but the primary place of work will be at the CUC main office, which is currently located at the Joeten Dandan building.

SALARY: $19,425.00 to $26,789.50 per annum; un-graded, un-classified.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Associate Degree in Construction Management or Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, or Civil Engineering. Three years of senior engineering technician experience. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-025 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Foreperson
(Mechanic)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Serves as a foreperson, leading a team of workers - assigning and monitoring work and providing technical direction. Trouble shooting and Problem Solving. Plans work and prepares daily schedules and submits for approval. Responsible for teams output and productivity. Performs inspections and monitors subordinates work. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $21,104 to $30,601.00 per annum.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education. Four years of journey-level experience in the area assigned (in this case, Mechanic), including one year of experience leading a crew. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-026 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Machinist)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION : Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case machinist. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-027 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Welder)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. (If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: Two (2).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case welder. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-028 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Electrician)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. (If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282.00 to $25,059.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: Four (4).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case electrical. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-029 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Mechanic)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. (If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: Four (4).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case mechanic. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-030 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Operator)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. (If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282.00 to $25,059.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: Three (3).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible and proven experience in the trade—in this case operator. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIV, Issue No. 91

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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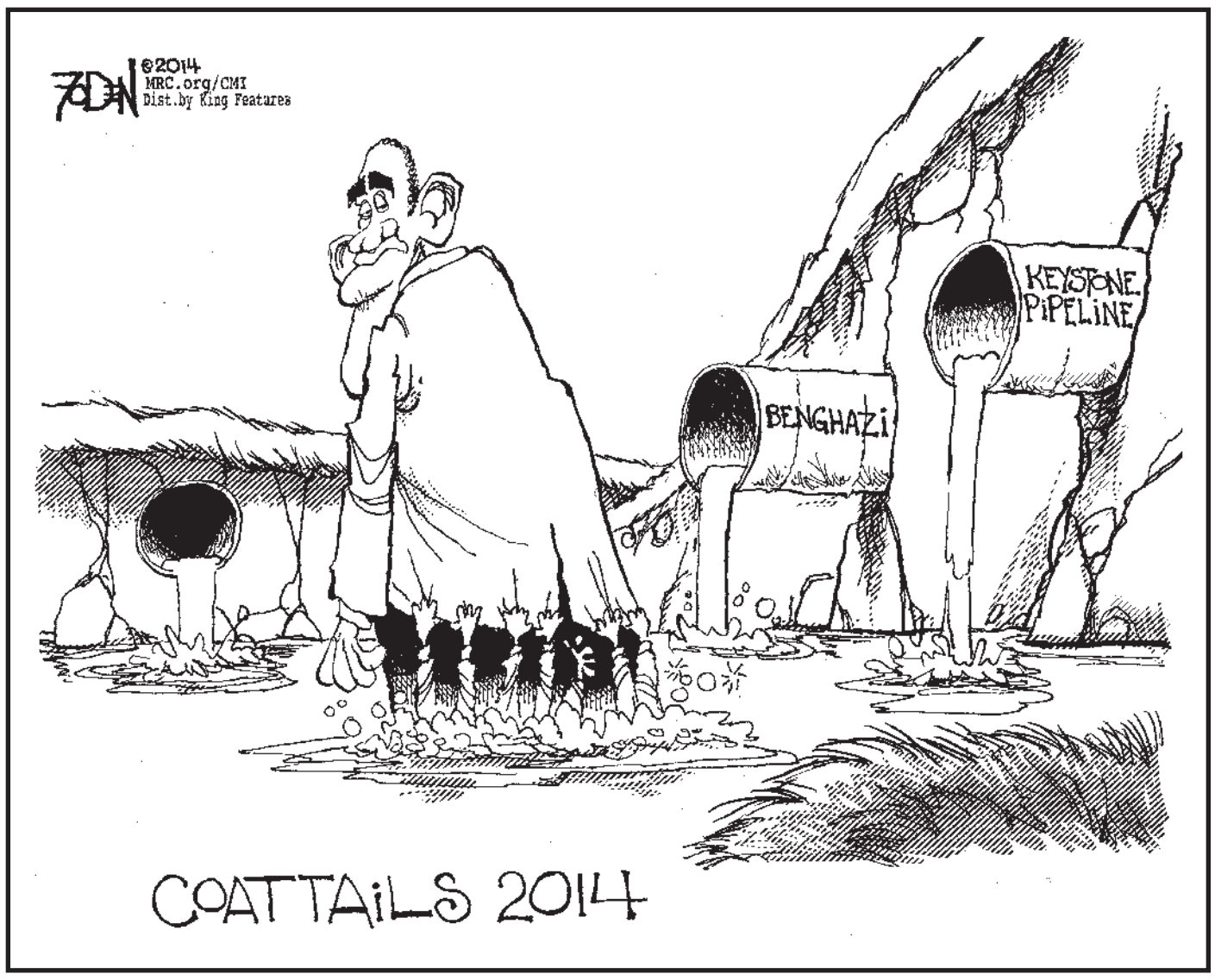


OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Older people celebrated in May with new numbers

By LEWIS W. DIUGUID
The Kansas City Star

Lewis W. Diuguid is a member of The Kansas City Star*'s Editorial Board. Readers may write to him at:* Kansas City Star*, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by email at Ldiuguid@kcstar.com.*

Baby boomers need to start paying more attention to data about older people because as time passes more of them will be us.

More than 75 million Americans are baby boomers born from 1946 to 1964. Boomers born 1946 through 1949 this year will be age 65 and older.

For May, which President John F. Kennedy in 1963 set as Senior Citizen Month and President Jimmy Carter in 1980 designated as Older Americans Month, the U.S. Census Bureau gives an interesting look into the lives of older people in this country. The census reports that 4.3 million people age 65 and older in 2012 were full-time workers, up from 1.3 million in 1992. Older people are living longer, but they are working longer, too.

Older people now are a lot more educated than in the past with 82.6 percent of people age 65 and older in 2013 having completed high school or more and 25.3 percent earning a bachelor's degree or more. Older people also are well-rooted in their communities with 80.7 percent being homeowners as of the fourth quarter of 2013.

But not every older person is well off. In fact, there are extremes—9 percent, or 3.9 million people age 65 and older in 2012, live in poverty. But the median net worth of people age 65 and older in 2011 was $170,516 compared with $203,015 (in 2011 dollars) in 2005.

Blame the drop on the Great Recession, which hit people age 50 and older particularly hard with job retirement savings losses.

The number of people age 65 and older on July 1, 2012, was 43.1 million. They were 13.7 percent of the population. By 2056, people age 65 and older are expected for the first time to outnumber people younger than 18 in the U.S.

People age 65 and older are expected to number 92 million by 2060. One in five U.S. residents will be in that age group. About 18 million will be age 85 or older.

The ranks of baby boomers will dwindle, shrinking to 2.4 million by 2060. The youngest among today's boomers will be 96 years old in 2060. Rock on!

APM

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

The title is not a misprint to denote your ATM, the automatic teller machine that gets the additional moolah when one scrapes the wallet's bottom at the bar 'cause the price for the lady's drink is a bit hefty. And you want to down some more brew in disgust for letting the lady leave with the guy with the necktie!

The APM in our title is the atmospheric particle matter that is in the air naturally but has come to our medical profession's attention because of the PM10-2.5 sized APMs threaten our metabolic functioning. Specifically, APMs get into the bloodstream and lodge to block small arterial and veiny passages, or deliver toxic chemicals.

This comes to mind daily here in Dong Bei as I look up the skies that is seldom the color blue. Gray as the color of my true loves hair is cute in songs but the particle matters in the atmosphere measures perennially at the alarming level above the tolerable line, leaving the sky always gray. Now, we do not mind this in the six months of cold weather because it just comes with the territory but on spring and summer days, I expect to get a break. No such luck.

Makes me nostalgic for the taken-for-granted-ness of blue skies in the CNMI as APMs from exposed dry soil and vehicular carbon monoxide exhausts get blown off to the ocean quickly, rendering the view of the horizon, like the vaunted green flash at sunset from Oleai Bar a venerable Marianas treat.

I remember looking out my window at the Riviera Hotel by NMC in As Terlaje on my first month as an island resident and was surprised to see a plot of tobacco grown on the slopes toward lake Susupe. That was probably from an Ilocano Pinoy growing his *dubla* supply. That's the rolled tobacco leaf that my paternal grandma in Ilocandia made for herself. She lived to be 95, hardly a poster girl for the surgeon general's warning in cigarette packs but then, her tobacco was grown naturally without much of the chemicals that pesticides and insecticides used with the new Virginia tobacco then grown to feed the Marlboro man manufacturers in Manila's environs.

I am not pushing for tobacco here. I cold turkey'd in '84 and lapses since had been sporadic, though perhaps not minimal in its effect. My genetics both on my maternal and paternal sides are good for 95 years. I am only going for 86, both as an estimate of the state of my health, as well as a covenantal choice with reality. Either way, more or less of the 86, it shall be *c'est la vie* for *j'aime la vie!*

Some among my acquaintances shudder at the thought that I might be teasing fate and destiny. *Non, mon ami.* The choice is actually deeply rooted in my faith, derived from the witness of those who patterned their existence in the trials and trails of one Jesus of Nazareth who spilled his guts after he marched into Jerusalem. In my appropriation of the tradition, he was a god-killer. (Are you waiting for a messiah to get you out of your predicament? Got good news for you. No one is coming. Pick up your life and live.) We substituted his image into the idolatry that surrenders one's existence to the external machinations of others, sometimes named pastors and priests in places! I know. I was in their number.

Since I am an evangelist of the good news I know to the core of my being, here it is. Jesus was a Jew, deeply honoring of the Levant's YHWH, the mysterious affirmation of just the way life is! No magic here; nor does it require any hocus-pocus from some ecclesiastical structure that claims proprietary knowledge of profound secrets. "You want to know how to really live before the supreme reality," he said in my hearing, "look no further. I am it! Reality and I are one."

Then he took the 33 years of his existence (broken and spilled out, like those of the MH370 and MV *Sewol* passengers, the tornado-flood victims of the U.S. South, street parliamentarian Thais, Ukrainians, Syrians, Egyptians, Iraqis, Brazilians; me and you), and expended it to the hilt, all of it. In so doing, I make his example "good news" 'til the end of time.

But it is not eternity or absolute certainty that is my business. It is my one moment in time, all 86 years of it, that is the subject of my expenditure. Sure, we need to be aware of the APM in our surroundings, as well as the chemical inputs we put into our systems, but the ultimate question remains: "How will you live the one existence that you have?" I follow the answer echoed out of Galilee's shores.

Now, there are many who know and live by the same story without genuflecting to the icon dubbed Jesus. That is fine. In the 21st century, those who attend their Mass and worship services but live their lives on the tags of appointed secret keepers of the way life is are driving the nail deeper on the outstretched arm of that carpenter in Golgotha, whose life is the real messiah, the living Christ!

Yes, APMs do threaten the health of our breath, but it is the health of our soul that is at stake. May you decide to live the one moment of life that is yours, however you've drawn the parameters of its covenant. To paraphrase Nike, Just BE You!

Thus spake the ex-reverend!

Hinemlu` Natibu

Pot tres semana, todu i man-halom gi Emergency Room (ER) gi CHC puru probleman pot putin pechu. Entre e`salau yan a`gañg na uguñg mientras mafattu i mediku.

Afañielos, gaige este na chetnot gi sentadan natibu. Sige ta daflogue ma`asin, mantika yan tinilada na mames, sinparat. Sige lokue` ta omentaye muna tailayen maisa hit ginen man-dañosu na bisiu—mama` yan chupa, yan kontodu maneska. Naturatmente na sige pumotpot haga`ta mientras i mantika ha tutuhon humuchum gigat korason-ta.

Ni unu mafañagu yan chetnot gi halom haga`ña ni umanog dispues. Gaige haf` para un` padese gi oriyamu piot haf` un` offisiona deste neñkano` yan bisiu.

Ahe` ti hu keke dispone ha`anen miyu. Lau dididi` na inadahe siempre u adelanta mas hinemlo`mu gi karera mona. Mas menos atburotumu deste minalañgu yan gaston hinemlu`.

`Nai tumo`la i Chinu

`Nai sige si Presidente Obama lumiliku` giya Asia gi mapos na semana, un` titige ilegña na kase ha rikononose haf` na `an tumo`la iya China todu man-nanañgu.

I man-ma`gas Marianas man-mamatmos lau hombre ennau man-e`esalau "Kuantu mas papa` malago`mu para bai lumos-yu?" Dios mihu!

Klaru pa`gu na man-tai konsensia moralidat i man-sabiun hegsu` I Deni`. Taya` mas marikononose kau esta humalom kestat betdi ni para uma-usa gi este na eleksion.

Unu konsueluhu i gaige ha` lokue` i federat na kumakahat gi santatte ya sige ha kula hafa masusesede guine. Ai, mauleg na gaige federat `sino man-malatigasu hit lala`la`.

Gastun Lina`la`

I gastun lina`la` guine kahulu` 20 pot sientu mientras i sueddon tautau siha sumaga parehu pot mas ke dies años na tiempu. Mampos mapua este na pesadot `nai mas masa`pet i publiku gi katkuet lugat. Mahatsa i kandet, presiun fektos, yan apas hinemlu` mientras i sueddu mama` simientun sirasimi` gi halom paip (pipe).

Este na pinadese finañagun diskuidon i man-gaige gi hegsu` I Deni. `An un` kuestiona man-lalalu` pot un` pega gi me`nan matan niha asuntu siha `nai madiskuida siha. Ke lau hamyu man-manhula` para in` chegue che`chu` linahyan. Kau uttimu suspirus gi nina` siñan miyu pot casino? Kau pidasun katne `sino lateria i tanu` Saipan yan i tautau siha? Mañge konsensian miyu gi este sumen sentidu na asuntu? Mattu gi sumen na`mamahlau i na`tatah na che`chu` muron!

Siempre bai` pasalista na`an balakon casino gi pahinan gaseta para todus antes de ha`anen botasion. Siempre marepite finapos eleksion 1979!

Disision Muron

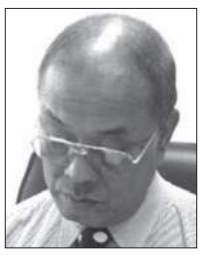
Buente mapo`lu kumu ignorante i publiku gi asuntoña siha na mahasñgon maplacha`e asuntun casino. Yangin un` botasion siña kasse man-adispensa hit pot ti mahasñgon. Lau dos biahe i publiku ha chule` i asuntu pot tai` inañgoghu gi lehislatura. Hafa gi "dos biahe" ti in` kemprende?

In` hassu hafa masusede gi 1979 na eleksion lehislatura? Sin ditension todu man-mabalen eksobiya i man-sabiu ni fuma` bachet siha. Mauleg ta repite este na etsisiu na Nobiembre.

`An tai respetu hau ni klaru na sentimentun publiku, pues tai bines hau matata`choñg gi puestu `nai tai kinemprende hau pot satton na areglon linahyan.

Haf` Lastromu?

Hombre i deñgdeñg gai lastru. Libianu un` li`e ginen manu yan malag manu. I pinegaña na lastru ha signifiifika finaposña.



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Giya hagu kumu representanten publiku, haf` sustansiau na lastru pinegamu ni magahet na ha adelanta dañkulu i linala` i tautau siha gi señgsoñg? Siña i man-sabiu ma-oppe este na kuestion?

■■■

Pinasensia kulan tuhu` hanom papa` gi hilu` achu`. `An unu ha` tetti todu felis. Gigon sinparat pinidoñgña siempre mama` madog gi achu`. Estague` fuetsan pinasensia.

■■■

Ti baina` dinanche linachen otru piot sa` kontodu guahu lalache. Finenina baina tunas maisayu` sa` ginen ennau `nai mas klaru huli`e na parehu ham tautau. Pas gi ha`anen miyu!

■■■

Ilegña finu` Chinu na yangin para unna` tailaye i otru, pues na seguru na un` guadog dos hoyu: Unu para guiya, i otru para hagu. Kasse dinancheña `an ta petsige yine`ase` yan inasi`i. Siempre todu atmos banda humanau gi pas.

■■■

Maulegña lache gi dinanche ke dinanche gi lache! Disision casino i tatatte!

■■■

Paire i finu` Chamorro sa` solu liñguahe `nai siña un` punu dos biahe i tautau: Hu senpunu`! Ileghu na esta i tautau dimalas, pues matai esta. Kau siña un` ta`lun pumunu` i matai?

Buy fresh, buy local!

Last of a four-part series

Other issues in addition to farmers cooperative that were highlighted in the first Agriculture Summit (February 2009) focused on pest management and control, farm labor pool with the federalization of immigration, market identification and product branding, irrigation and fumigation infrastructure, value-added technology transfer, alternative farming approaches (hydroponic farming, organic farming, drip water irrigation, etc.), lack of government-provided farm equipment support for rent (i.e., farm tractors), and geographically referenced information in support of sustainable locally grown food system through geographic information system.

If the CNMI is to stay true to local food production for local consumption, then it needs to have a coherent policy on food sustainability and food security in agriculture as a food production system. The CNMI should start by imposing $0.10 per pound inspection fee on imported produce forthwith. The new revenue should be dedicated as follows: 1. Hire more inspectors to check on incoming produce that may provide additional insects, viruses and bacteria. 2. Fund 100 percent CNMI grown and Buy Fresh, Buy Local, for It Matters marketing programs. 3. Provide funds to growers teamed with CREES agriculture specialists to help increase self-sufficiency. 4. Build agriculture sustainability into elementary educational programs (i.e., school gardens and curriculum development, including community gardening programs). 5. Open more public land to grow more temperate crops. 6. Protect (CNMI product seal) the CNMI growers name and not allow companies with their distribution system or network, for instance, to substitute CNMI harvested dried mango with imported foreign mangos. 7. Fund more research to better our approach to agriculture and self-sustainability in the CNMI. 8. Support innovative production techniques and product enrichment strategies by local farmers, local ranchers, local fishermen, local dairy, and local value-added agriculture products (e.g., frozen fruit mango, guava, etc.). 9. Fund "what's growing, who's growing it and how to access it" geographic information system in support of the local food system.

Developing the capacity to connect people and restaurants with sources of local produce prevents food waste that also helps farmers with their profit margin.

As president of the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Association and overall chairman of this year's 31st Saipan Agricultural Fair, we are inviting our local residents, local vendors, and local industry officials to come and join us on this fun-filled day. Come to the fair and celebrate the success of local farmers and other producers by buying local fresh produce, fruits, and agricultural value-added products. Also, make time to talk with local farmers and other local producers on how we could help with your fresh dietary choices, so that we all march forward together in achieving agriculture industry success and a healthy productive community that chooses fresh produce, fresh fruits, and other local agricultural by-products and value-added agricultural commodities over imported synthetic products and chemically treated off-island produce, fruits, and preserved valued-added products.

We also want to invite everyone in the community to participate in the soon-to-be announced grand opening of the Garapan Public Market at Fishing Base.

Be proud of "Buy fresh, buy local!"

By RAMON BLAS CAMACHO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ramon Blas Camacho is president of the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Association and chairman of the 2014 Saipan Agriculture Fair. This column was submitted celebration of Saipan's 31st Agriculture Fair.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Legalizing marijuana and old-fashioned thinking

First, I want to thank the person for raising the concern about "our children" in the discussion of legalizing marijuana for the education of the general public. To qualify myself as a parent and retired educator who has taught kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grades and college students and as a person who grew up a stone's throw away from the ghetto, I think I am more than qualified to assess the potential effects of legalizing marijuana on our youth. As for the person who wants to be a ghost with outlandish accusations about legalization and me, a ghost *is not* considered a credible source in our highly sophisticated and intellectual world.

While I appreciate the concerns of any rational adult for our youth, to proclaim certain unfounded phenomenon as fact without any legitimate foundation is not being a responsible adult. Read the proposed legalization legislation before leaping into the public arena and complaining because virtually none of the crazy scenarios he proposed to scare people will ever happen under the proposed legislation. They didn't happen in the Colorado and Washington experiments and they won't happen here! In fact, we have done our homework and the CNMI's law will be better than Colorado and Washington states' laws as the CNMI will be a state-owned and -operated business to generate state revenues with 100 percent profits and better controls, not a private industry. The great thing is virtually nothing will change, unless Pop decides to grow his limit if he's not near a school and nothing in the villages will change except the ejection of poker machines, which is also part of the economic reform initiative. The child protection laws will be improved with hundreds of millions in funding for DPS and PSS. Our concern should be the more dangerous and more addictive drugs and vices that are killing people. Why didn't the old-fashioned person say something about these more dangerous things our youth can get a hold of like ice, cocaine, heroin, alcohol, and tobacco. Please get educated on issues before jumping into the public arena to attack people as it makes my critics look silly and helps me to prove I'm a lot smarter every time.

Just think, if marijuana was an herb that just makes our body feel better and not our mind, it would be OK with old-fashioned folks but that tells me old-fashioned folks are just jealous of people who can enjoy an altered state of mind without being reckless and criminal, unlike what we see again and again with real drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. How can anyone with common sense condone alcohol, cigarettes, and chew tobacco, which is killing people every day and yet be against marijuana, which has never harmed or killed anyone?

Too many old-fashioned folks don't give our youth enough credit even though our world continues to get better with improvements in all walks of life because our youth continue to be smarter than their parents. Children are usually the smartest computer programmers and operators in most homes, not parents! We are also on our way to a future of virtually a smokeless society because of education. Has this unknown person against legalizing marijuana seen our youth on the TV commercials against drug, alcohol, and tobacco? There are more and more children telling parents to stop smoking these days when it used to be parents trying to keep their child from smoking. Times have changed and so have our youth so don't lower the bar; raise expectations and children will jump over it every time.

We should all be more concerned about all this casino mess than worrying about our children and legalized marijuana. PSS is also doing a fine job combating drug use by youth. The old-fashioned ideology toward marijuana must change because our entire nation is changing with over 20 state legislatures poised to legalize marijuana this year because of the very successful Colorado and Washington state experiments. FYI, even the *man'amko* are excited about legalizing pot as the root-tea is one of the best blood pressure medicines in the world.

I'm am very glad this person did admit they were "old-fashioned" because an official national poll showed that the largest portion of the minority group against legalization was voters over 65. Why do we have to wait until old-fashioned folks change their minds or die? Why not now when we need it most!

Just because you are old you don't have to be old-fashioned. Just ask any *man'amko* who wants to legalize pot. But the purpose of the CNMI's operation being a government operation in theory is to reverse the marijuana trends of today to the government's and our community's advantage under controlled conditions until it is decriminalized by federal authorities. If you want to know more about the economic initiative, attend the presentation that will be held on Saipan, which will be announced. In the meantime, I will be on Tinian for a presentation on Saturday, May 10, at noon so people of Tinian, tell a friend to tell another friend to come and participate in the Q&A on the CNMI-wide economic initiative. Location to be announced.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

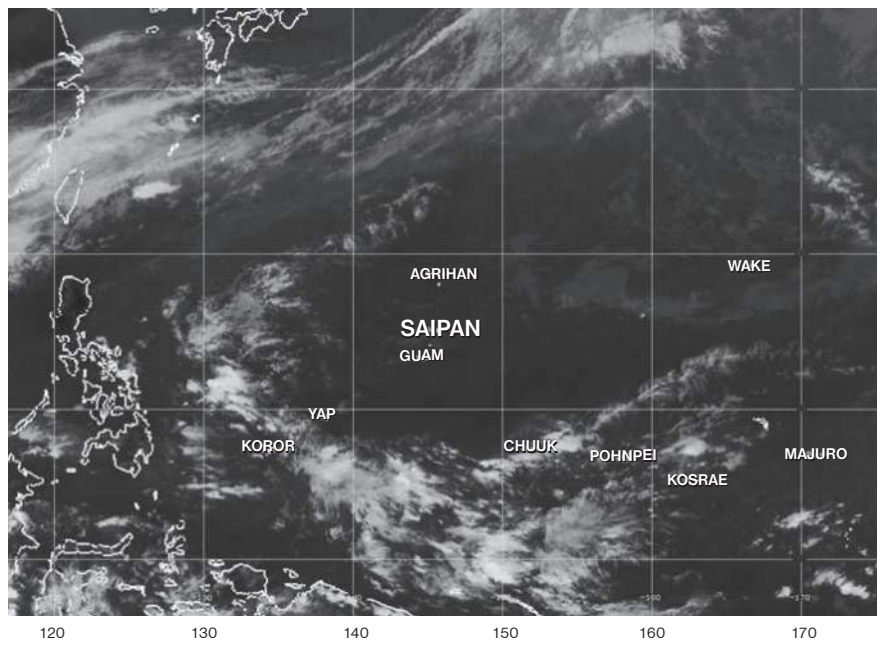
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼82
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼81
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲66	▼54
Beijing	Cloudy	▲77	▼55
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲77	▼74
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼73
London	Light Rain	▲62	▼51
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼56
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Melbourne	Sunny	▲65	▼47
Miami	Sunny	▲86	▼76
New York	Showers	▲56	▼53
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼50
Paris	Showers	▲62	▼53
Pusan	Showers	▲70	▼45
Rome	Sunny	▲75	▼54
Salem	Rain	▲58	▼48
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼54
Seoul	Showers	▲72	▼48
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼60
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲84	▼60

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends west-southwestward from south of Midway Island at 21N180 to southwest of Wake Island at 16N165E then continues westward as a shear line to end east of the northern CNMI at 17N150E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 150 miles north of this boundary. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over much of Micronesia within 200 miles of a line from 15N132E to 7N134E to 2N148E to 2N158E to 7N163E. This area includes Koror but passes south of Yap, Guam, Chuuk and Pohnpei to finally end just north of Kosrae. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Majuro or east of a line from 5N176E to 9N176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
10:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
3:05 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
9:44 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:01 PM	12:58 PM
Friday	1:49 PM	1:37 PM
Saturday	2:37 PM	2:16 AM
Sunday	3:27 PM	2:56 AM
Monday	4:18 PM	3:37 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Free lecture on El Niño projections for 2014-15

»How El Niño works and its anticipated effects for the Commonwealth and region

The El Niño climate phenomenon is anticipated to re-occur in the Pacific later this year. When this event occurs and reaches a moderate or strong intensity, it can significantly impact the worldwide weather, often destructively. The Mariana archipelago is often the recipient of some of the harsh impacts, such as more typhoon and monsoon activity, increased floods, and even a prolonged drought.

The public is invited to attend an APASEEM-sponsored talk on this subject to be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center this coming Tuesday, May 13, 2014, beginning at 3:30pm.

The region's National Weather Service warning coordination meteorologist, Charles "Chip" Guard, will share his agency's most recent scientific projections on the anticipated El Niño phenomenon. In addition, Guard will discuss previous and potential impacts to the region that are associated with this global climate phenomenon.

As at all APASEEM events questions from the public are greatly encouraged.

For more information contact APASEEM president Michael Trianni at mtrianni@ymail.com or John Furey, APASEEM secretary, at jfurey@saipan.com.

APASEEM stands for Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management ***(APASEEM)***

Guam senators tour THAAD

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—Senators of the 32nd Guam Legislature were provided a tour and briefing of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, battery located on Andersen Air Force Base on May 7.

Democrat Sen. Rory Respicio, majority leader, and Republican Sen. Anthony Ada, minority leader, made the initial request for the tour, which was hosted by Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, commander of Joint Region Marianas; Brig. Gen. Steven Garland, commander of 36th Wing; and Army Lt. Col. Clyde Cochrane, commander of Task Force Talon, THAAD.

"As we continue to foster positive relations with our regional partners, it is important that we provide opportunities for Guam's leaders to better understand the military's mission," Payne said. "We appreciate the senators' support and willingness to familiarize themselves with our capabilities and to become acquainted with the men and women who serve our great nation."

Respicio stated: "With the deployment of this missile defense system, our armed forces have once again demonstrated their professionalism and dedication to securing our island's defense and our nation's security."

Legislative Secretary Tina Muña Barnes stated further: "It was a very impressive and informative tour and I know I speak for all my colleagues in conveying our gratitude to Admiral Payne and his command for keeping us apprised of this new addition to our island's security."

Senators Thomas Ada, Aline Yamashita, Christopher Duenas, Frank Aguon, Jr., and Thomas Morrison were also in attendance. ***(PR)***

U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ADARIUS PETTY

Senators of the 32nd Guam Legislature pose with military leadership in front of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system on Andersen Air Force Base on May 7. The senators visited the site to gain a deeper understanding of the THAAD mission, which has been at Andersen since April 2013.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS
CUC-RFSOQ-14-017

DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, SURVEYING, CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION, AND OTHER A&E PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR VARIOUS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from qualified engineering consulting firms for the following purposes: Designing water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water main, sewer main (gravity and pressure), lift stations, booster pumping stations, water storage reservoirs, treatment works, upgrades to existing facilities; providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specifications, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, review of partial payment requests; surveying; and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Islands of Saipan, Rota and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFSOQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFSOQ package set. Prospective engineering consulting firms for this RFSOQ must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by May 30, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on May 21, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFSOQ-14-017, Request for Statements of Qualifications"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 9, 2014**. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All qualified engineering consulting firms are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the engineering consulting firm due to lack of information or understanding of the RFSOQ requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/ qualified engineering consulting firms for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All qualified engineering consulting firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from the SOQ submitted by competing qualified engineering consulting firms.

This RFSOQ does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective respondents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 22, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Chief Engineer, CUC Water/Wastewater Division via email address john.riegel@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all SOQ for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFSOQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All SOQ shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement &Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-14-015

UTILITY RATE & FINANCIAL CONSULTING SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to provide Utility Rate and Financial Consulting Services.

The requested Utility Rate and Financial Services will assist CUC in revising the charge schedules for electricity, water and wastewater by conducting the appropriate rate studies and developing the related cost of service models. In addition to these base rate activities, CUC will also require assistance with periodic reviews of its levelized energy adjustment clause (LEAC) rates, water electric charge (WEC) rates, and wastewater electric charge (WWEC) rates. During the two year term of this contract, CUC anticipates filing 3 base rate cases (one each year for electric, water and wastewater) and at least four periodic reviews of the LEAC, WEC, and WWEC. Preparation of testimony and appearance at public hearings will also be required. Ad hoc rate related studies may also be requested from time to time.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by May 16, 2014 to be considered.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on May 15, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-015, Utility Rate and Financial Consulting Services to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 4, 2014. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 16, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email address charles.warren@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply

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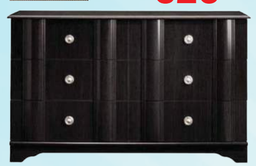
Essential Home Ricco 11x14/8x10 Silver Frames **$12.95**

Jacklyn Smith Gatsby 6-Drawer Dresser **$259.95**



Jacklyn Smith 5pc. Dining Set **$329.95**

Canon Pixma Printer **$89.95**

Uniden 1100 White Corded Slimline Phone **$9.95**

RCA 46" LED TV **$799.95**

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Essential Home 24pc Kitchen Tools and Gadget Set **$18.95**

Black & Decker 12Cup Rice Cooker **$49.95**

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Essential Home Riviera 16pc Glassware Set **$11.95**

Essential Home 4pk Plaza Hiball Glass Set **$8.95**

Essential Home Slumber-N-Slide Loft Bed **$269.95**

Banzai Stomp Rocket **$8.95**

Banzai Speed Blast Water Slide **$6.95**

Clearwater Shady Time Turtle Pool **$10.95**

Intex Folding Lounge Chair **$14.95**

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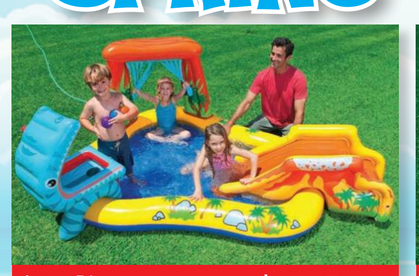
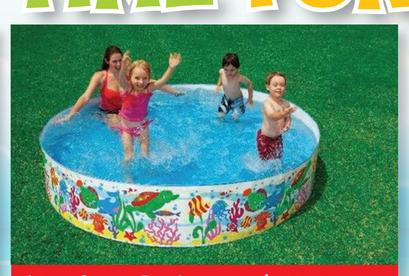
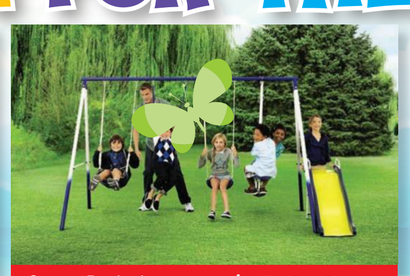


Intex Dinosaur Pool & Play Center **$44.95**



Intex Ocean Reef 8ft Snapset Pool **$22.95**



Grove Park 4 Leg Swing Set **$189.95**

Northwest Territory Silver Dome Tent 10X8 **$69.95**

Kenmore 8,000 BTU Window A/C **$279.95**

Kenmore 10,000 BTU Window A/C **$339.95**

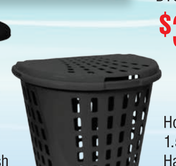
Timex Set & Forget Wall Clock **$19.95**

Live Love Laugh Round Wall Clock **$12.95**

HDX 18pk Large Microfiber Towel Set **$15.95**

Hefty 6.5qt Storage Container **$3.95**

Home Logic Laundry Baskets **$12.95**



Home Logic Small Dish Drainer Brushed Nickel **$7.95**

Home Logic 1.5 Bushel Hamper Lidded D-Shape **$16.95**

Kenmore 16" High Velocity Fan **$37.95**

Northwest Territory Folding Chair **$23.95**

Igloo Seat Top 5 Gallon Beverage Dispenser **$27.95**

Igloo Glide Roller 110qt Cooler **$129.95**

Enviroback Dura Rib Mat 36"X60" **$33.95**

Craftsman 94pc Mechanical Tool Set **$69.95**

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Business

Slowing Chinese economy likely to pinch US, too

WASHINGTON (AP)—After watching China narrow the U.S. lead as the world's largest economy, Americans might be tempted to cheer signs that the Chinese economy might be stumbling.

Any schadenfreude would be short-sighted.

In an interconnected global economy, bad news for one economic superpower is typically bad news for another—even a fierce rival.

"It hurts," says Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "China is the second-largest economy on the planet. If growth slows there, it affects everybody."

Zandi estimates that each 1 percentage point drop in China's economic growth causes as much damage to the U.S. economy as a $20-a-barrel increase in oil prices: It shaves 0.2 percentage point off annual U.S. growth.

That isn't catastrophic. But to regain its full health nearly five years after the Great Recession officially ended, the U.S. economy needs whatever help it can get.

A sharp slowdown in China also threatens the 28-member European Union, which outweighs even the United States if measured as a single economy. China is the EU's second-largest export market behind the United States.

A stream of economic news from China has been rattling financial markets. Chinese manufacturing slowed in April for a fourth straight month. A Chinese lending bubble, driven by overbuilding, is stirring alarm. China's growth in the January-March quarter slowed to 7.4 percent compared with a year earlier. It was its slowest quarterly growth since the 2008-2009 global crisis.

Delta plans to return additional $2.75B to shareholders thru 2016

ATLANTA—Delta's Board of Directors yesterday announced the next phase of the company's plans to return capital to shareholders, including a 50 percent increase to its dividend and a new share repurchase authorization. The Board has authorized a new $2 billion share repurchase program, to be completed no later than Dec. 31, 2016. In addition, beginning in the September 2014 quarter, the company's quarterly dividend will increase to $0.09 per share from the current $0.06 per share. Together, these two programs are expected to return an additional $2.75 billion to shareholders through 2016.

"Delta has deployed its strong cash flows to drive value for owners by strengthening its balance sheet through debt and pension reductions while also returning a significant amount of cash back to shareholders," said Daniel Carp, chairman of Delta's Board of Directors. "The Board is furthering our long-term commitment to Delta shareholders by substantially increasing our dividend and also providing a flexible vehicle to return additional cash to shareholders through the $2 billion share repurchase program. This next phase of our shareholder return program reflects the Board's confidence in Delta's ability to sustain and improve upon its already strong financial performance."

In an investor presentation this morning, Delta updated its progress against the balanced capital deployment plan announced by the company in May 2013. With its financial performance and cash flows having exceeded the targets under that plan, Delta announced new plans to further drive shareholder value by accelerating the company's efforts to reduce debt levels, address its pension obligations, and return cash to shareholders.

■ **Debt:** Delta ended the March 2014 quarter with $9.1 billion of adjusted net debt, a reduction of $2.6 billion since the end of 2012 and nearly $8 billion since the company began its debt reduction efforts in 2009. The company expects to reach $7 billion of adjusted net debt in 2015, two years ahead of its originally stated goal, and $5 billion of adjusted net debt by the end of 2016.

■ **Pension:** For 2013 and 2014, the company contributed nearly $1 billion each year to its defined benefit pension plans, through a combination of $700 million in required minimum funding and $250 million of incremental funding. This pension funding level, combined with higher interest rates and returns on pension assets, helped lower the company's unfunded pension liability by 25 percent to just over $10 billion. The company plans to maintain its current $1 billion annual funding level through 2020, with a goal of achieving 80 percent funded status by that date.

■ **Cash returns to shareholders:** The company is on track to return $700 million to shareholders by early June 2014, through $200 million of dividends and completing its original $500 million share repurchase authorization more than two years ahead of its June 30, 2016 expiration date. The new repurchase authorization and increase to the quarterly dividend approved by Delta's Board of Directors are expected to return an additional $2.75 billion to shareholders through 2016.

"We are setting a new standard at Delta, building a company that is producing strong improvements to earnings and cash flow, while also investing billions of dollars in our people, fleet and products and strengthening our balance sheet," said Richard Anderson, Delta's chief executive officer. "Our strategy is producing the industry's best employee relations, customer service and financial performance as we strive toward our goal of becoming a consistently high performing S&P 500 company."

Repurchases under Delta's program may be made through a variety of methods, which may include open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions, block trades, or accelerated share repurchase transactions in compliance with applicable regulatory guidelines, including Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 10b-18. Purchases will be made subject to market and economic conditions, applicable legal requirements, and other relevant factors. Delta had approximately 853 million shares of common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2014. ***(PR)***

Subway tests hummus, thinner meat slices

NEW YORK (AP)—Subway is testing hummus and thinner slices of deli meats that look more appealing as it looks to keep pace with changing eating trends.

Tony Pace, Subway's chief marketing officer, said in interview Tuesday that the chain began testing hummus as a topping in early April. Pace noted that many customers already order vegetarian sandwiches and that the chickpea spread would give people looking for meatless options another choice.

"It's something we've been talking about for the last three or four years," Pace said, saying it has "tremendous potential."

If the test is successful, Pace said it would be the first time the chain rolled out hummus nationally. Individual franchisees may have offered it independently in the past, he said.

Getting hummus as a topping will cost more, much like the avocado Subway added to its menu in recent years.

The hummus test comes at a time when many Americans are trying to cut back on how much meat they eat. In particular, Pace noted that people in their 20s are more "nutritionally aware" than any other past generation. In coming years, he predicted their eating habits will force the restaurant industry to adapt their menus.

Nation

Circus acrobat wants to return to ring after fall

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—One of eight circus acrobats who plummeted about 20 feet to the ground during a hair-hanging stunt says she's thankful she's alive and wants to return to the ring.

"I'm hoping to join back up with the tour and show the world that I'm OK, and I'm hoping some of the other girls will do the same," Samantha Pitard told The Associated Press after being released from a hospital Tuesday.

Pitard and seven other acrobats were in an act described as a "human chandelier," hanging from an apparatus by their hair. They were injured during a Sunday performance of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus when a clip at the top of the chandelier-like apparatus snapped, dropping them to the ground 20 or more feet below.

The other women are still hospitalized.

Pitard, 23, a native of Champaign, Illinois, said she's the only one of the troupe who can walk on her own. The others need assistance or haven't tried to walk because they're undergoing operations. But she said the others are expected to fully recover and are in good spirits after receiving an outpouring of support, including get well cards from children who witnessed the accident.

"Every single one of us in the troupe, every single circus performer, knows that they are risking their lives every time they go out there to perform or practice," she said. "We hope it doesn't happen, but we know that we are taking that risk, and we love it enough to take that risk every day to make people happy."

AP

In this photo provided by Rosa Viveiros, first responders work at the center ring after a platform collapsed during an aerial hair-hanging stunt at the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, Sunday, May 4, 2014, in Providence, R.I.

Hawaii releases video of teen dropping from jet

HONOLULU (AP)—The security footage looks unassuming at first: a Hawaiian Airlines jet parked at a gate at the Maui airport under overcast skies, and workers going through their regular routine. Then, the 15-year-old's legs dangle briefly from the plane's belly and he drops to the concrete.

Hawaii transportation officials released video Tuesday of a California teen hopping from a jet's wheel well April 20 after stowing away for a 5 1/2-hour flight.

The video largely confirms previous accounts given by FBI and airport officials of Yahya Abdi's seemingly unbelievable story: that he ran away from home, hopped a fence at Mineta San Jose International Airport and climbed into the wheel well of the closest plane.

Abdi survived the flight at 35,000 feet despite low oxygen and freezing temperatures.

The six minutes of security footage that the Hawaii Department of Transportation released show Abdi lowering himself from the Boeing 767 and jumping to the ground.

He sits on the concrete for 13 seconds, then gets up and slowly walks toward the front of the plane. He wobbles slightly as he walks, pausing briefly a few times in the roughly 40 seconds it takes him to get under the passageway connecting the front of the airplane with the terminal.

Abdi walks up to an airport worker driving a cart, and the two talk for about three minutes before walking away together. The boy stays standing the whole time.

ACROSS THE NATION

Miss. deputy charged in death of basketball coach

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Family and friends of a youth basketball coach called for swift justice Tuesday against two Mississippi sheriff's deputies accused of assaulting their son after a recreational league game and causing injuries that led to his death. Hinds County Sheriff's Deputy Joshua Adams was charged with murder in Monday's death of 25-year-old Justin Griffin. Adams, 37, was refereeing a 7th-grade AAU state tournament game Griffin was coaching on Sunday. The two argued over play calls on the court and later Griffin was attacked in the parking lot outside, police said. Griffin died from blunt-force trauma to the head from injuries in the fight, said Hinds County Coroner Sharon Grisham-Stewart. "We believe this was an unprovoked act of aggression as a result of our investigation," Assistant Jackson Police Chief Lee Vance told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "That's why we charged him with the murder."

Ex-Texas mortician freed from prison early

CARTHAGE, Texas (AP)—A former mortician whose killing of a rich widow shook an East Texas town and later inspired a movie was released on bond Tuesday after the district attorney who prosecuted him agreed to let him out of a life sentence. Bernie Tiede was set free after a judge who recommended his prison term be reduced set a $10,000 bond. A state criminal appeals court still must formally sign off on the sentence reduction. The now-55-year-old Tiede, who was well liked in the close-knit community of Carthage, was convicted in the death of his longtime companion, Marjorie Nugent, who was found dead in a freezer months after disappearing in 1996. The 81-year-old widow had a reputation among townspeople as a crotchety cheapskate. The case inspired the 2012 dark comedy "Bernie" starring Jack Black in the title role and Shirley MacLaine as Nugent.

Asia

Thai PM faces legal showdown in power abuse case

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's prime minister faces a legal showdown Wednesday as the country's highest court is expected to rule against her in a case that could toss her out of office and plunge the country deeper into political turmoil.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra stands accused in Constitutional Court of abusing her authority by transferring a senior civil servant in 2011 to another position, allegedly for the benefit of herself or her Pheu Thai Party.

The court, historically unsympathetic to her government, could also rule her Cabinet liable as well, and in a worst-case scenario force them all out of office, leaving a power vacuum that the government's opponents hope to fill with their own loyalists.

A ruling against Yingluck would be a victory for her opponents, representing the urban elite and those in the south, who for the past six months have been engaged in vociferous and sometime violent street protests demanding she step down to make way for an interim unelected leader.

AP

Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra arrives at the Constitutional Court in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

But it would do little to resolve Thailand's political crisis as it leaves the country in limbo—and primed for more violence. Since November, 20 have been killed and hundreds injured.

A ruling against her casts doubt on whether new elections planned for July will take place, which would anger Yingluck's mostly rural supporters who have called for a major rally Saturday in Bangkok.

It also remains far from clear whether her opponents will be able to achieve other key demands, including creating a reform council overseen by a leader of their choice that will carry out various steps to rid the country of corruption and what they claim is money politics, including alleged vote-buying.

The Yingluck government's caretaker status—she dissolved Parliament late last year to call early elections, which were disrupted by protesters and then invalidated—complicates an unprecedented situation already unclear under law.

Vietnam escalates dispute with China over oil rig

By CHRIS BRUMMITT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam warned China on Tuesday that it would take all necessary measures to defend its interests in the South China Sea if Beijing does not remove a large oil rig from waters claimed by both countries.

The remarks represent an escalation of the dispute in one of Asia's most volatile regions.

China's stationing of the oil rig over the weekend is widely seen as one of its most provocative steps in a gradual campaign of asserting its sovereignty in the South China Sea.

China's assertiveness along with its growing military and economic might is alarming Vietnam, the Philippines and other countries in the region that also claim parts of the oil- and gas-rich waters. The United States, which is undertaking a military and economic "pivot' toward Asia in part to counter Chinese influence, shares the concerns of the smaller nations.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki called China's action "provocative and unhelpful to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region."

A Vietnamese government statement said Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh called Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi and told him the deployment of the $1 billion deep sea rig, which he said was accompanied by military vessels, was illegal and a violation of Vietnamese sovereignty.

Beijing says that the rig, CNOOC 981, is in its territorial waters. China claims nearly all of the South China Sea.

"Vietnam cannot accept and resolutely protests this Chinese action. It demands that China withdraw the rig HD981 and escort vessels from this area," the statement quoted Minh as telling Yang.

Minh said Vietnam wanted to solve all territorial disputes with China peacefully but "will apply all necessary and suitable measures to defend its rights and legitimate interests" in the seas.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bomb kills 3 policemen in western Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A roadside bombing on Tuesday killed three policemen and wounded two in the country's western Herat province, a security officials said. District police chief Shir Agha Alokozay said the attack took place in the province's Obe district on Tuesday morning, when the police vehicle the officers were riding in hit the roadside bomb. Alokozay saaid the bomb was set off by a remote control device and that the police have caught a suspect with the remote control. Another roadside bomb killed four policemen and wounded four others in the same province the previous night, according to Border Police Chief Gen. Mohammad Juma Adeel said. He added that the four were in critical condition after the bombing in Ghoryan district.

Designer drugs banned in New Zealand after outcry

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand has reversed course on allowing some designer drugs to be legally sold after a public outcry about the toll they were taking. A law change Wednesday will ban the sale and possession of all synthetic drugs. That ends the sale of 36 substances, many of which had been designed to mimic marijuana. The changes come after some people claimed the drugs were addictive and were causing community disorder and violence. The country last year gained international attention after enacting a novel new law that allowed those synthetic drugs thought to be low-risk to be sold while awaiting pharmaceutical-style testing. The law still allows manufacturers to sell the drugs if they can prove them safe through testing. But health officials have yet to develop testing protocols.

World

Nigerian girl describes kidnap, 276 still missing

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—The girls in the school dorm heard the sound of gunshots from a nearby town. So when armed men in uniforms burst in and promised to rescue them, at first they were relieved.

"Don't worry, we're soldiers," one 16-year-old girl recalls them saying. "Nothing is going to happen to you."

The gunmen commanded the hundreds of students at the Chibok Government Girls Secondary School to gather outside. The men went into a storeroom and removed all the food. Then they set fire to the room.

"They ... started shouting, `Allahu Akhbar,' (God is great)," the 16-year-old student said. "And we knew."

What they knew was chilling: The men were not government soldiers at all. They were members of the ruthless Islamic extremist group called Boko Haram. They kidnapped the entire group of girls and drove them away in pickup trucks into the dense forest.

Three weeks later, 276 girls are still missing. At least two have died of snakebite, and about 20 others are ill, according to an intermediary who is in touch with their captors.

There were reports Tuesday that another group of 11 girls had been kidnapped in the villages of Warabe and Wala in northeastern Borno state. State police officials at first denied to The Associated Press that the abductions had taken place. But later in the day the state police commissioner, Tanko Lawal, confirmed the kidnappings. A resident said the girls, ages 12 to 15, were dragged into the forest Monday night by men armed with AK-47s, according to local journalists.

The plight of the kidnapped girls—and the failure of the Nigerian military to find them—has drawn international attention to an escalating Islamic extremist insurrection that has killed more than 1,500 so far this year. Boko Haram, the name means "Western education is sinful," has claimed responsibility for the mass kidnapping and threatened to sell the girls. The claim was made in a video seen Monday.

Amid growing outrage at the girls' prolonged captivity, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan Tuesday announced he has accepted a U.S. offer to help in the search, including security personnel and unidentified assets.

The British government has also expressed concern over the fate of the missing students, and protests have erupted in major Nigerian cities and New York.

The 16-year-old was among about 50 students who escaped on that fateful day, and she spoke for the first time in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. The AP also interviewed about 30 others, including Nigerian government and Borno state officials, school officials, six relatives of the missing girls, civil society leaders and politicians in northeast Nigeria and soldiers in the war zone. Many spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing that giving their names would also reveal the girls' identities and subject them to possible stigmatization in this conservative society.

The Chibok girls school is in the remote and sparsely populated northeast region of Nigeria, a country of 170 million with a growing chasm between a north dominated by Muslims and a south by Christians. Like all schools in Borno state, Chibok, an elite academy of both Muslim and Christian girls, had been closed because of increasingly deadly attacks by Boko Haram. But it had reopened to allow final-year students to take exams.

At about 11 p.m. on April 14, a local government official, Bana Lawal, received a warning via cell phone. He was told that about 200 heavily armed militants in 20 pickup trucks and more than 30 motorcycles were headed toward his town.

Lawal alerted the 15 soldiers guarding Chibok, he said. Then he roused sleeping residents and told them to flee into the bush and the nearby hills. The soldiers sent an SOS to the nearest barracks, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) away, an hour's drive on a dirt road.

No help arrived.

Ukraine tightens cordon around rebellious city

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—A pro-Russia militia holding an eastern Ukrainian city came under further pressure Tuesday from advancing government troops, but militants acted with impunity elsewhere in the turbulent region.

The foreign ministers of Ukraine and Russia met Tuesday, but their open disagreements did nothing to suggest a diplomatic solution was near.

Diplomacy was to be taken up again on Wednesday during a meeting in Moscow between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Swiss President Didier Burkhalter, whose country currently chairs the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Russia and the West have expressed a desire for the OSCE to play a greater role in defusing the tensions in Ukraine.

■■■

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration denounced as illegal a planned weekend referendum by pro-Russian insurgents pushing for autonomy and independence for portions of eastern Ukraine.

Secretary of State John Kerry said Tuesday the referendum set for Sunday would be "bogus" and not recognized by the West.

Last month Moscow supported an independence referendum in the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea, which led to its annexation by Russia. Leaders of the anti-government movement say they plan to hold a referendum on autonomy in the areas of Donetsk and Luhansk, although no preparations for the vote have yet been seen.

"We flatly reject this illegal effort to further divide Ukraine," Kerry told reporters after meeting at the State Department with EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton. "It's pursuit will create even more problems in the effort to try to de-escalate the situation."

■■■

Ukrainian military operations that began Monday to expunge pro-Russia forces from the city of Slovyansk were the interim government's most ambitious effort so far to quell weeks of unrest in Ukraine's mainly Russian-speaking east.

Four government troops and 30 militants were killed in the gunbattles, Ukraine's interior minister said Tuesday. The pro-Russia militia said 10 people were killed, including civilians. There was no immediate way to reconcile the figures.

In the southwest, Kiev authorities also attempted to reassert control over the region around Odessa, a major Black Sea port, by appointing a new governor on Tuesday.

This nation of 46 million was thrown into a political crisis after its Moscow-leaning president, whose base was in eastern Ukraine, fled to Russia in February following months of protests in Kiev. Across the region in recent weeks, armed insurgents who have seized dozens of government buildings and police stations are now at odds with western and central Ukraine, which seek closer ties with Europe and largely back the government in Kiev.

Focus

Deadly side effect to fracking boom

By KEVIN BEGOS and JONATHAN FAHEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. (AP)—Booming production of oil and natural gas has exacted a little-known price on some of the nation's roads, contributing to a spike in traffic fatalities in states where many streets and highways are choked with large trucks and heavy drilling equipment.

An Associated Press analysis of traffic deaths and U.S. census data in six drilling states shows that in some places, fatalities have more than quadrupled since 2004—a period when most American roads have become much safer even as the population has grown.

"We are just so swamped," said Sheriff Dwayne Villanueva of Karnes County, Texas, where authorities have been overwhelmed by the surge in serious accidents.

The industry acknowledges the problem, and traffic agencies and oil companies say they are taking steps to improve safety. But no one imagines that the risks will be eliminated quickly or easily.

"I don't see it slowing down anytime soon," Villanueva said.

The energy boom, fueled largely by new drilling technology, has created badly needed jobs, lifted local economies and drawn global manufacturers back to the United States. But the frenzy of drilling activity contributes heavily to the flood of traffic of all kinds that experts say has led to the increase in serious accidents and deaths.

Not all of the crashes involved trucks from drilling projects, and the accidents have been blamed on both ordinary motorists and heavy equipment drivers.

But the accidents have devastated families: two young boys crushed to death last year by a tanker truck in West Virginia; a Pennsylvania father killed by another tanker in 2011; a 19-year old Texas man fatally injured in 2012 after colliding with a drilling truck on his way to work. A month later, on the same road, three retired teachers died in another collision with a truck.

Deadly crashes are "recognized as one of the key risk areas of the business," said Marvin Odum, who runs Royal Dutch Shell's exploration operations in the Americas.

Crashes often increase when the volume of traffic goes up, whether because of an improving economy, a new shopping mall or more people moving into the area. Still, the number of traffic fatalities in some regions has climbed far faster than the population or the number of miles driven.

AP

In this photo made on Saturday, March 1, 2014, the graves of 7-year-old Nicholas Mazzei-Saum and his 8-year-old brother Alexander Mazzei-Saum, are decorated at the cemetery in Clarksburg, W. Va. In March of 2013, a truck carrying drilling water overturned onto a car their mother, Lucretia Mazzei, was driving, killing the two elementary school students. An analysis of traffic fatalities in the busiest new oil and gas-producing counties in the U.S. shows a sharp rise in deaths that experts say is related to the drilling boom.

In North Dakota drilling counties, the population has soared 43 percent over the last decade, while traffic fatalities increased 350 percent, to 63 last year from 14 ten years ago. Roads in those counties were nearly twice as deadly per mile driven than the rest of the state. In one Texas drilling district, drivers were 2.5 times more likely to die in a fatal crash per mile driven compared with the statewide average.

AP impact

This boom is different from those of the past because of the hydraulic-fracturing process, which extracts oil and gas by injecting high-pressure mixtures of water, sand or gravel and chemicals. It requires 2,300 to 4,000 truck trips per well to deliver those fluids. Older drilling techniques needed one-third to one-half as many trips.

Another factor is the speed of development. Drilling activity often ramps up too fast for communities to build better roads, install more traffic signals or hire extra police officers to help direct the flow of cars and trucks. Drillers will sink 20,000 new wells of this type in the U.S. this year.

Last year, a truck carrying drilling water in Clarksburg, W.Va., overturned onto a car carrying a mother and her two boys. Both children, 7-year-old Nicholas Mazzei-Saum and 8-year-old Alexander, were killed.

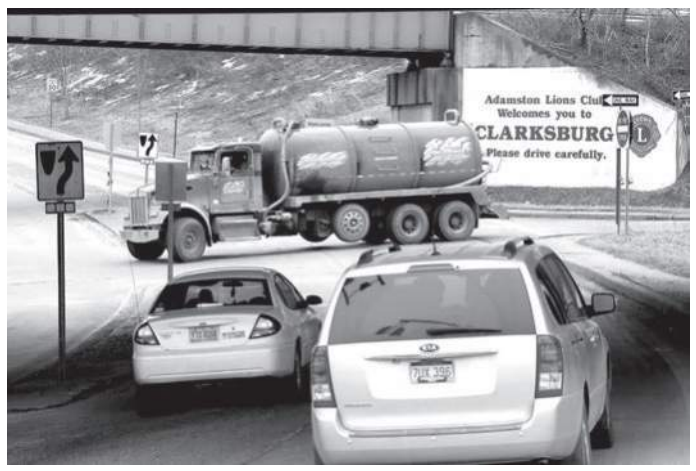
"We buried them in the same casket," recalled their father, William Saum. He said his wife, Lucretia Mazzei, has been hospitalized four times over the last year for depression.

Traffic fatalities in West Virginia's most heavily drilled counties, including where the Mazzei-Saum boys were killed, rose 42 percent last year, to 47, from 33 in 2012. Traffic deaths in the rest of the state declined 8 percent.

The average rate of deaths per 100,000 people—a key mortality measurement that accounts for population growth—in North Dakota drilling areas climbed 148 percent on average from 2009 to 2013, compared with the average of the previous five years, the AP found. In the rest of the state, deaths per 100,000 people fell 1 percent over the same period.

Traffic fatalities in Pennsylvania drilling counties rose 4 percent over that time frame, while in the rest of the state they fell 19 percent. New Mexico's traffic fatalities fell 29 percent, except in drilling counties, where they only fell 5 percent.

In 21 Texas counties where drilling has recently expanded, deaths per 100,000 people are up an average of 18 percent. Across the rest of Texas, they are down by 20 percent.



AP

In this photo made on Saturday, March 1, 2014, a truck drives through an intersection in Clarksburg, W. Va. In March of 2013, a truck carrying drilling water overturned near the same intersection onto a car driven by Lucretia Mazzei, killing her two sons, 7-year-old Nicholas Mazzei-Saum and his 8-year-old brother Alexander Mazzei-Saum. An analysis of traffic fatalities in the busiest new oil and gas-producing counties in the U.S. shows a sharp rise in deaths that experts say is related to the drilling boom.

For Villanueva, that means his county now has accidents serious enough to require air transport of victims three or four times each week, compared with only a few times a month before drilling operations took off.

In two Texas drilling regions, 259 people were killed last year, compared with 148 a decade ago. An average of 100 more people were killed in vehicle accidents in each of the last two years compared with before the boom.

When oil and gas are found, changes come fast. Drillers scramble to acquire leases and get the oil and gas flowing as soon as possible. Local service companies quickly marshal trucks and drivers to earn as much new business as they can while the boom lasts.

Counties and regions going through drilling booms simply cannot keep up. A weigh station stands on U.S. Route 2 in Williston, North Dakota, the heart of drilling country, but traffic on the highway gets backed up if the station stays open for 15 minutes, said Alan Dybing, a research fellow at North Dakota State University's transportation institute. So it soon has to close, letting streams of unchecked trucks pass through.

Some experts say regulatory loopholes make things even worse. Federal rules limit the amount of time most truckers can stay on the road, but the rules are less stringent for drivers in the oil and gas industry.

"These exemptions make Swiss cheese out of safety regulations," said Jackie Gillan, president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety.

Every truck accident "is a tragedy and deserves serious attention," said Steve Everley of the industry group Energy in Depth. He said oil and gas drillers and their suppliers have been working to reduce traffic and accidents by adopting safety programs, recycling more drilling water and building more pipelines to transport water.

Vehicle crashes are the single biggest cause of fatalities to oil and gas workers, according to a study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Truck drivers aren't the only ones being blamed. In many cases, accident investigators found that motorists got impatient while following big trucks and took risks that led to accidents, such as passing on hills or curves, according to Robert Barnes, safety director for Pennsylvania's Bradford County.

Some states are working to reverse the trend, and there's at least one drilling region that appears to be getting safer.

In North Dakota, turning and climbing lanes are being added to give drivers a safe way to pass, and officials are planning to widen a stretch of U.S. Route 85. The Pennsylvania and Texas transportation departments have launched safe-driving campaigns.

Colorado's Weld County, which lodged a record number of drilling permits last year but saw traffic fatalities fall to 30 from 39, to its lowest level in 10 years. Capt. Rocco Domenico of the Colorado State Patrol says the county has been the focus of a long-term safety campaign, and drilling there isn't as concentrated or as intense as it is in other states.

On the day his sons were killed, William Saum's wife had taken the boys to the YMCA to register for swimming and karate classes. The truck didn't stop at the stop sign, tried to make a turn and flipped onto the family car. Police issued two traffic tickets but filed no criminal charges.

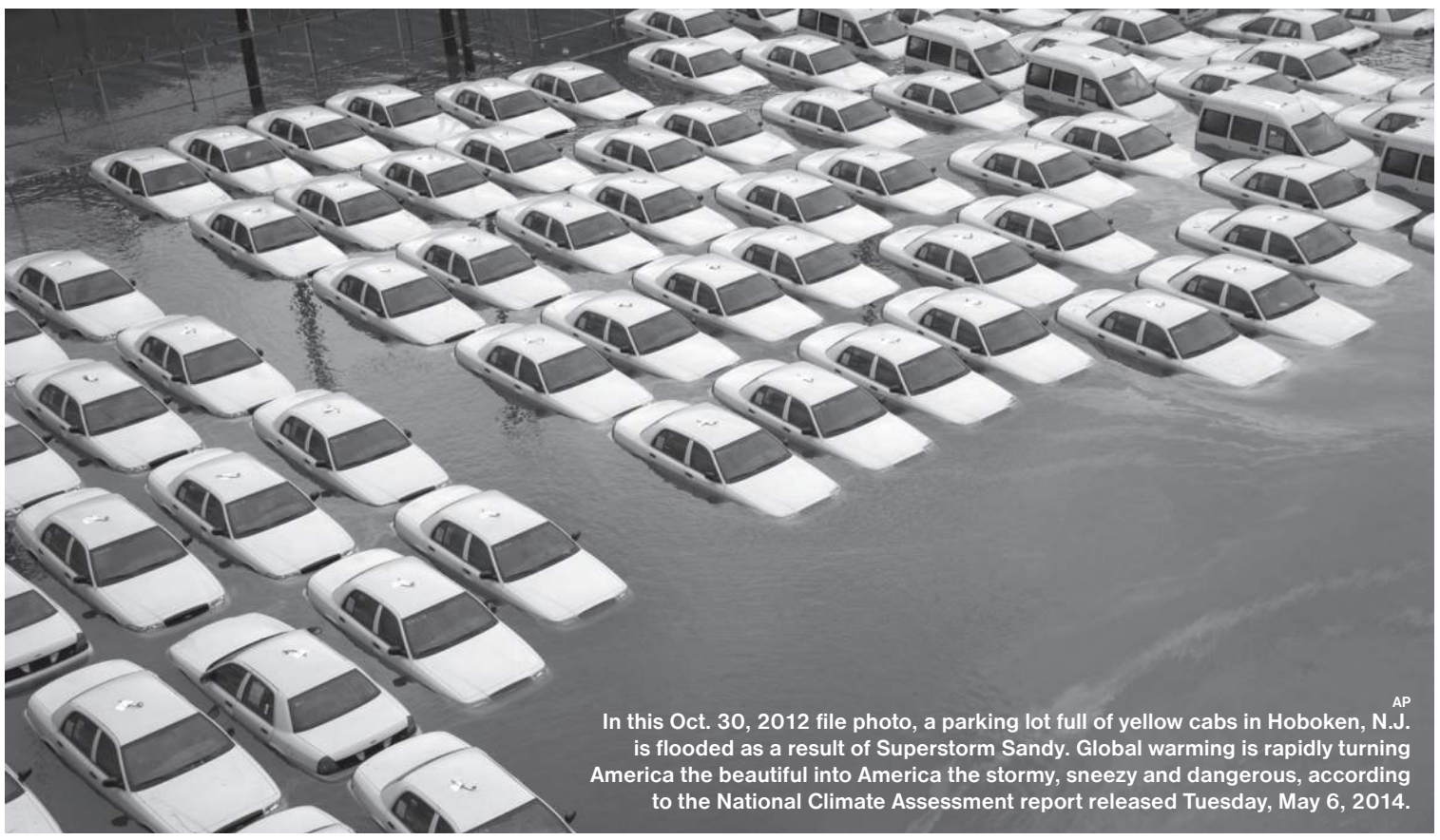
Saum and his wife waited until she was 40 to have children. Now she's 49, he said, and "it's not like we can have any more."

Asked what he thinks of the drilling boom, he paused.

"I guess," Saum said, "it's good for the people who are making the money."

Environment

Federal report: Warming disrupts Americans' lives



AP
In this Oct. 30, 2012 file photo, a parking lot full of yellow cabs in Hoboken, N.J. is flooded as a result of Superstorm Sandy. Global warming is rapidly turning America the beautiful into America the stormy, sneezy and dangerous, according to the National Climate Assessment report released Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Most Americans are already feeling man-made global warming, from heat waves to wild storms to longer allergy seasons. And it is likely to get worse and more expensive, says a new federal report that is heating up political debate along with the temperature.

Shortly after the report came out Tuesday, President Barack Obama used several television weathermen to make his point about the bad weather news and a need for action to curb carbon pollution before it is too late.

"We want to emphasize to the public, this is not some distant problem of the future. This is a problem that is affecting Americans right now," Obama told "Today" show weathercaster Al Roker. "Whether it means increased flooding, greater vulnerability to drought, more severe wildfires - all these things are having an impact on Americans as we speak."

Climate change's assorted harms "are expected to become increasingly disruptive across the nation throughout this century and beyond," the National Climate Assessment concluded, emphasizing the impact of too-wild weather as well as simple warming.

Still, it's not too late to prevent the worst of climate change, says the 840-page report, which the Obama administration is highlighting as it tries to jump-start often-stalled efforts to curb heat-trapping gases. Said White House science adviser John Holdren: "It's a good-news story about the many opportunities to take cost-effective actions to reduce the damage."

Release of the report, the third edition of a congressionally mandated study, gives Obama an opportunity to ground his campaign against climate change in science and numbers, endeavoring to blunt the arguments of those who question the idea and human contributions to such changes. Later this summer, the administration plans to propose new regulations restricting gases that come from existing coal-fired power plants.

Not everyone is persuaded.

Some fossil energy groups, conservative think tanks and Republican senators immediately assailed the report as "alarmist." Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said Obama was likely to "use the platform to renew his call for a national energy tax. And I'm sure he'll get loud cheers from liberal elites - from the kind of people who leave a giant carbon footprint and then lecture everybody else about low-flow toilets."

Since taking office, Obama has not proposed a specific tax on fossil fuel emissions. He has proposed a system that caps emissions and allows companies to trade carbon pollution credits, but it has failed in Congress.

ON THE NET
The National Climate Assessment: http://www.globalchange.gov/

Republican Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana said the report was supposed to be scientific but "it's more of a political one used to justify government overreach." And leaders in the fossil fuel industry, which is responsible for a large amount of the heat-trapping carbon dioxide, said their energy is needed and America can't afford to cut back.

"Whether you agree or disagree with the report, the question is: What are you going to do about it? To us that is a major question," said Charlie Drevna, president of the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers. He called the report "overblown."

The report—which is full of figures, charts and other research-generated graphics—includes 3,096 footnotes referring to other mostly peer-reviewed research. It was written by more than 250 scientists and government officials, starting in 2012. A draft was released in January 2013, but this version has been reviewed by more scientists, including twice by the National Academy of Sciences which called it "reasonable," and "a valuable resource."

Environmental groups praised the report. "If we don't slam the brakes on the carbon pollution driving climate change, we're dooming ourselves and our children to more intense heat waves, destructive floods and storms and surging sea levels," said Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Scientists and the White House called it the most detailed and U.S.-focused scientific report on global warming.

The report looks at regional and state-level effects of global warming, compared with recent reports from the United Nations that lumped all of North America together.

"All Americans will find things that matter to them in this report," said scientist Jerry Melillo of the Marine Biological Laboratory, who chaired the science committee that wrote it. "For decades we've been collecting the dots about climate change; now we're connecting those dots."

In a White House conference call with reporters, National Climatic Data Center Director Tom Karl said his two biggest concerns were flooding from sea level rise on the U.S. coastlines - especially for the low-lying cities of Miami, Norfolk, Virginia, and Portsmouth, New Hampshire - and drought, heat waves and prolonged fire seasons in the Southwest.

Even though the nation's average temperature has risen by between 1.3 and 1.9 degrees since record keeping began in 1895, it's in the big, wild weather where the average person feels climate change the most, said co-author Katharine Hayhoe, a Texas Tech University climate scientist. Extreme weather hits us in the pocketbooks and can be seen with our own eyes, she said.

The report says the intensity, frequency and duration of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes have increased since the early 1980s, but it is still uncertain how much of that is from man-made warming. Winter storms have increased in frequency and intensity and have shifted northward since the 1950s, it says. Also, heavy downpours are increasing - by 71 percent in the Northeast. Heat waves, such as those in Texas in 2011 and the Midwest in 2012, are projected to intensify nationwide. Droughts in the Southwest are expected to get stronger. Sea level has risen 8 inches since 1880 and is projected to rise between 1 foot and 4 feet by 2100.

Climate data center chief Karl highlighted the increase in downpours. He said last week's drenching, when Pensacola, Florida, got up to two feet of rain in one storm and parts of the East had three inches in one day, is what he's talking about.

The report says "climate change threatens human health and well-being in many ways." Those include smoke-filled air from wildfires, smoggy air from pollution, and more diseases from tainted food, water, mosquitoes and ticks. And ragweed pollen season has lengthened.

Flooding alone may cost $325 billion by the year 2100 in one of the worst-case scenarios, with $130 billion of that in Florida, the report says. Already the droughts and heat waves of 2011 and 2012 have added about $10 billion to farm costs, the report says.

Embrace simple changes toward a greener life

By JESSICA REYNOLDS
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO—In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it's easy to overlook how much trash humans generate and the other countless ways we adversely impact the planet. From disposing mounds of single-use coffee to leaving lights on in an empty home, we all—often inadvertently—hurt our world. This month, vow to be more environmentally conscious. Here is a list of items that will help you reduce your carbon footprint and aid the Earth day to day.

CREATE NEW TOYS FROM RECYCLABLES.
When searching for toys sure to please a toddler, look no further than your recycling bin. Any parent knows empty cereal boxes or paper towel rolls alone can entertain tykes, but Box Play stickers liven up these trash-to-treasure favorites. Transform an egg carton into a piano or a milk carton into a fire truck in seconds. But be sure to thoroughly wash all containers. The stickers, printed on 100 percent recycled paper with vegetable-based inks, are designed to fit standard-size milk cartons, tissue boxes, toilet paper rolls and more. $3 to 7 each; boxplayforkids.com

USE PAPER TOWELS WITHOUT IMMEDIATELY TOSSING IN THE TRASH.
There's no denying paper towels are convenient, but after only one use, off to the landfill they go. Bambooee reusable towels, composed of bamboo-derived rayon, have a sturdier design than their paper rivals and, according to the company, can be washed up to 100 times. Toss dirty Bambooees in the laundry and they'll emerge refreshed and as durable as before. We tested them through several washes, and they held up. Bambooees are sold in rolls of 20 sheets, but after the first use, you'll have to find another way to dispense them. It's a small price to pay for the money—and trees—you'll save by switching. Bambooee partners with Trees for the Future to plant one tree for each roll sold. $15.99 per roll; bambooee.com

CLEAN WITHOUT THE PACKED-IN CHEMICALS.
Certain household cleaning products are packed with chemicals known to potentially harm your family and the environment. But each item in the Clorox Green Works line is at least 97 percent naturally derived, making it ideal for households with children or anyone sensitive to pungent smells. The brand's original scent emits a subdued citrusy smell, while the fruitier scents—like lemon and water lily—seem to linger longer. The line includes an all-purpose spray, cleaning wipes, glass and bathroom cleaner and dishwashing and laundry detergents. $2 to $10 for most; available at many Target and Walmart stores.

CHECK YOUR ELECTRICITY USAGE.
Leaving appliances plugged in when they're not in use sucks energy and hikes up your electric bill. The P3 International Kill A Watt will allow you to see just how much power idle or outdated electronics can waste. How it works: Plug the Kill A Watt into any electrical outlet and then plug an appliance into that. The device will calculate consumption by kilowatt—helping you determine which electronics should be unplugged or updated. The results might convince you to unplug your TV during the day or finally buy a more energy-efficient refrigerator. $23.99 at shop.p3international.com; also available at Home Depot and Wal-Mart.

GET LUNCH AWAY FROM PLASTIC BAGS.
Reusable lunchboxes have been around a while, but now there's one that eliminates the need for zip-close bags, tinfoil and other excess waste. PlanetBox is essentially a Western version of the traditional Japanese bento box, designed to store a sandwich, chopped fruits, nuts and other common lunchtime snacks. The tray folds together, securing its contents, and slides into an accompanying custom-fit polyester bag. To clean, just pop the tray in the dishwasher. $34.95 to-$74.95 at planetbox.com.

Life & Style

Monet's 'Water Lilies' auctioned in NY for $27M

NEW YORK (AP)—A Claude Monet painting out of the public eye for decades sold Tuesday for just over $27 million, leading the bidding at an auction of art from the estates of heiress Huguette Clark, businessman Edgar Bronfman and other major collectors.

"Water Lilies," Monet's 1907 rendition of his beloved garden in Giverny, France, went to an undisclosed Asian buyer in the season-opening auction of impressionist and modern art at Christie's. The painting, part of Clark's collection since 1930, has not been publicly exhibited since 1926.

Christie's is selling hundreds of items from Clark's collection after a feud over her estate was settled in the fall. The Montana copper mining heiress died at 104 in 2011. Her father, U.S. Sen. William A. Clark, founded Las Vegas.

Art from other estates, including works by Edgar Degas, Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso from the collection of the late billionaire Bronfman, also changed hands. The Canadian-American, a former head of Seagram Co. and longtime president of the World Jewish Congress, died late last year.

All told, Christie's sold 47 pieces Tuesday, raising more than $285 million.

None of the sales eclipsed the artists' auction records.

Picasso's 1942 painting of his mistress in a purple dress titled "Portrait of Dora Maar" and Wassily Kandinsky's 1909 abstract "Beach Scene," sold for $22.5 million and $17.2 million, respectively.

Both came from the estate of German collectors Viktor and Marianne Langen and were at auction for the first time.

Amedeo Modigliani's 1919 portrait "Young Man," part of a private American collection, sold for $17.6 million.

Pierre-Auguste Renoir's "Young Women Playing Badminton," another from the Clark estate, sold for $11.4 million.

The prices include the buyer's premium.

Christie's is scheduled to sell other pieces from the Clark collection on June 18.

The scene moves to Sotheby's on Wednesday. The auction house is offering four sculptures and one oil painting by Alberto Giacometti. Leading the selection is the artist's "City Square," a multi-figural sculpture that is estimated to bring $12 million to $18 million.

Giacometti's "Large Thin Head (Large Head of Diego)," a sculptural representation of the artist's younger brother, brought $50 million at auction last year. The auction record for any Giacometti work is $103.9 million.

Among other top lots at Sotheby's is Matisse's "Morning Session," a 1924 oil of the artist's assistant, Henriette Darricarrere. It could bring up to $30 million. The current auction record is $48.8 million for his "Black IV," set in 2010.

Sotheby's also has three works by Joan Miro that had languished in a vault in New York for 50 years. The Spanish artist created them for the filmmaker and photographer Thomas Bouchard and his daughter Diane. One of the works, "Untitled, 1947," depicting colorful anthropomorphic forms on a rich blue background, is estimated at $4 million to $6 million. The other two works are set to go under the hammer at Sotheby's day sale Thursday.

Sotheby's expects Wednesday auction to bring up to a total of $322 million.

Next week, both houses are offering works by postwar and contemporary artists.

AP

A woman gets a closer look at "Nympheas" by Claude Monet during an auction preview at Christie's in New York, Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

Pussy Riot members tell Congress of rights abuses

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two members of the Russian dissident punk group Pussy Riot came to the Capitol Tuesday and asked members of Congress to add 16 officials to the list of Russian human rights violators who face U.S. sanctions.

Before a throng of cameras and reporters, the women—Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Maria Alekhina—said Russian President Vladimir Putin's crackdown on human rights was damaging that country.

"Putin is not leading Russia to stability, but to complete instability and chaos," Tolokonnikova said through a translator.

The pair was arrested in 2012 after an obscenity-laced performance criticizing Putin at Moscow's main cathedral. They spent nearly two years in prison, but since their release have continued decrying the lack of freedom in Russia and harsh government tactics against opponents.

The women said Russia has resumed abusing prisoners, including using mandatory psychiatric treatment for some. They said they hoped public pressure would force the mistreatment to stop.

"Silence is the most dangerous thing for a political prisoner," said Tolokonnikova.

By law, the United States can freeze assets and ban travel to the U.S. of Russians deemed to be human rights abusers. Currently, 18 Russians are on a public list of people facing such sanctions while an unknown number of others are on a confidential list.

The 16 people the women want sanctioned include Vladimir Kolokoltsev, Russia's interior minister. Also on the list were officials involved in prosecuting and trying people who participated in a large Moscow rally in May 2012 and officials at the prisons where Tolokonnikova and Alekhina were incarcerated.

The two met for a half hour with lawmakers, who later lauded them as heroes. The group included Sen. Ben Cardin, a Democrat who chairs the U.S. Helsinki Commission, a federal panel that monitors human rights in dozens of countries.

Nielsen says people pay for far more channels than they watch

By JOE FLINT
LOS ANGELES TIMES

A new study by Nielsen shows that while the typical American household has almost 200 channels to choose from, viewers typically only watch about 17 networks on a regular basis.

The number of channels available to pay-TV subscribers has grown tremendously over the last decade. In 2008, the average home received 129 channels. Now that same home gets 189.

However, the study also confirms that more channels does not necessarily mean more channel surfing. The 17-channel figure has remained in place despite the increase in outlets to choose from.

"This data is significant in that it substantiates the notion that more content does not necessarily equate to more channel consumption," Nielsen said.

The study will also give more ammunition to media watchdogs and consumer activists who argue consumers should have more choice in determining what channels they receive.

The television industry has resisted calls for so-called a la carte programming, arguing it would not necessarily lower bills unless programming costs went down too.

If a cable network were suddenly in 30 percent fewer homes, it would need to find a way to make up for that lost revenue and the easiest approach would be to just charge the people who still get the channel even more.

However, the rising cost of sports programming is starting to lead to louder calls that at least some content should be sold to consumers who want it and not forced on everyone.

Hall & Oates have to choose from many hits

By KEVIN C. JOHNSON
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS—John Oates of legendary pop duo Hall & Oates isn't shy to admit his group's induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was way overdue.

The duo had been eligible for induction since 1997.

"It wasn't like Daryl (Hall) and I were losing sleep over this," Oates says. "It was what it was, and I learned in life you can't worry about stuff you can't do anything about. A small group of guys get in a room and make decisions based on their personal tastes.

"It has nothing to do with anything."

Oates, who has traditionally handled guitar, backing vocals and songwriting with Hall, points out many artists who have had tremendous influence on American popular music who haven't been inducted yet.

"You can't get involved with the political stuff," he says, especially after realizing that the duo was the only act to be inducted from Philadelphia. "That's crazy. Philadelphia has an unbelievable music tradition going back to the early days. All I can say is it's not very representative of reality."

That said, he still is happy with last month's recognition, and he was especially happy when the induction ceremony was over.

"My favorite part of the night was leaving—getting in the car and getting out of there," he says. "It was a long, long night—ridiculously long night. And we sat there. Everybody gets their due and deserves their moment, but the speeches went on and on. Me and Daryl got up there, and our speech didn't last five minutes."

The soulful duo has the nice problem of having too many hits to choose from in concert, including "Sara Smile," "One on One," "Private Eyes," "You Make My Dreams," "Kiss on My List" and, of course, "I Can't Go For That (No Can Do)."

And there's Oates' personal favorite, "She's Gone." He says that song is always at the top of his list.

"It's a song we wrote together in the early '70s, and we play it every night and it still sounds good," he says. "Something about that song brings it all together. The show's not complete without doing that."

The two are proud that their hits have stood the test of time, though they reinvent them in subtle ways in concert.

"The songs have evolved," Oates says. "There's a lot of stuff going on in there that's not like the record. But there's certain key elements you keep in there. We take 'Sara Smile' and do something at the end where we stretch. 'No Can Do' has become a jam session. We let the musicians stretch—do things like that to keep it contemporary."

They switch up some of their lesser-known songs so "a show in St. Louis may be different from the show in Cincinnati, though not a lot. It keeps us on our toes."

Some of those songs include "Las Vegas Turnaround," "When the Morning Comes," "It's a Laugh," "Alone Too Long" and "How Does It Feel to be Back."

What won't make the cut is their respective solo work, which includes Oates' latest album "Good Road to Follow."

"We both have solo careers, and we keep the solo projects completely separate and I think that's a good thing," he says. "I do solo shows all the time, and we have plenty of outlets for our individual stuff. But when we get together it's all Hall & Oates."

Oates' latest album features a collaboration with Vince Gill, Ryan Tedder of One Republic, Bekka Bramlett, Hot Chelle Rae and others.

"I wanted to make some original music," he says. "I hadn't done it in quite a while. I had some great ideas and wanted to reach out to people I knew I wanted to work with and people I didn't know and wanted to work with."

He started releasing songs digitally as singles, leading to the full album. "The thought of an album was an afterthought," he says.

"Good Road to Follow" is broken down into three EPs with five songs on each.

"You'll hear elements that will remind you of Hall & Oates, but I've been exploring my roots prior to meeting Daryl," he says of sounds that include folk, blues and early rock 'n' roll."

Oates had to grow into this role as frontman handling lead vocals.

"It took me a couple of albums to pinpoint where I felt comfortable."

'Avatar' actor's assault case to be dismissed

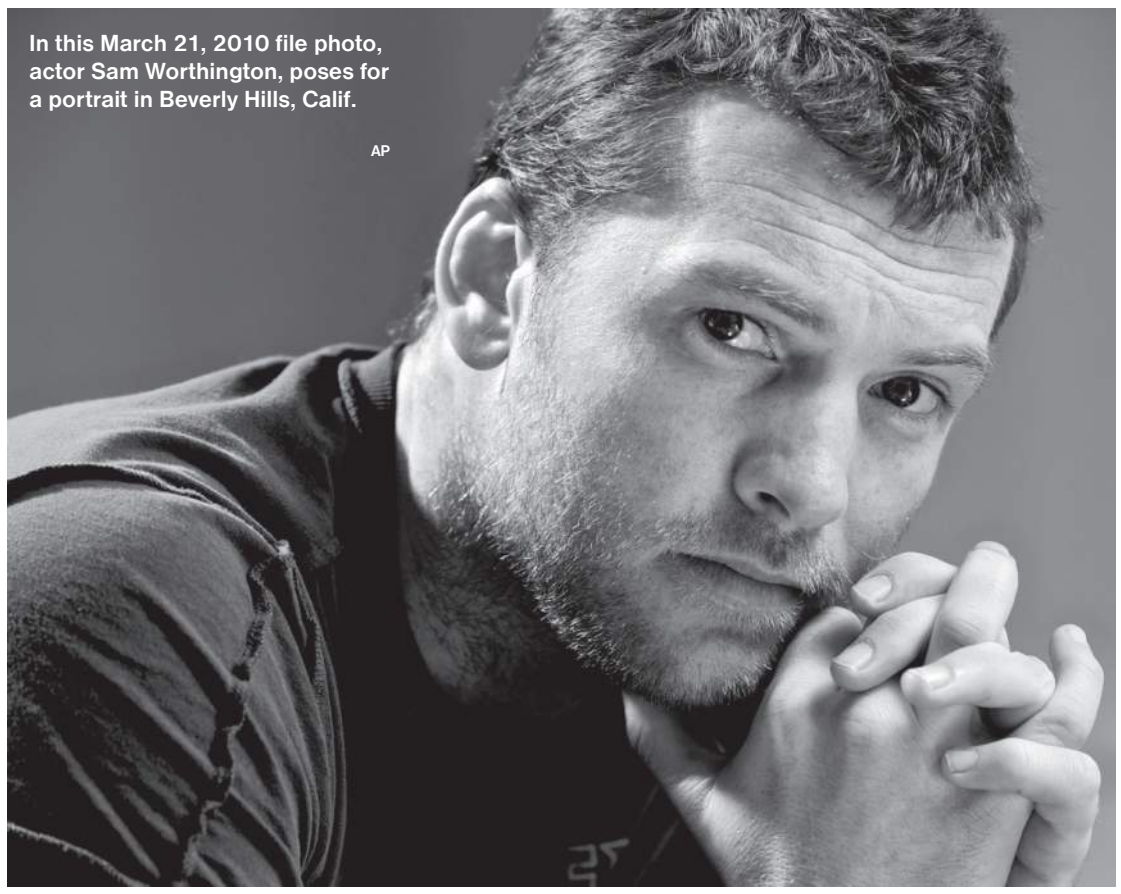
NEW YORK (AP)—"Avatar" actor Sam Worthington is on track to get his New York assault case dismissed after being accused of punching a photographer, who also was arrested.

The Australian actor was due in court Thursday. But electronic court records show the misdemeanor case was resolved April 8 with an agreement that it will be dismissed if Worthington stays out of trouble for six months. The Daily News first reported on the development.

Worthington's lawyer, Stacey Richman, confirmed Tuesday the case was set for dismissal. Manhattan prosecutors declined to comment. The arrangement is common for first-time misdemeanor arrests.

Worthington says he was protecting his girlfriend after photographer Sheng Li tried to trip her Feb. 23; Li says Worthington attacked him.

Prosecutors offered the same deal to Li but he turned it down.



In this March 21, 2010 file photo, actor Sam Worthington, poses for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP

MSNBC apologizes for Cinco de Mayo segment

NEW YORK (AP)—MSNBC is apologizing for a Cinco de Mayo segment that featured a staff member onscreen wearing a sombrero, shaking maracas and taking a swig from a bottle of tequila.

The network said Tuesday the interlude on its "Way Too Early" show Monday featuring correspondent Louis Burgdorf and host Thomas Roberts wasn't intended to be disrespectful. The show apologized online and will express its regret Wednesday on the air.

Hugo Balta, president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, says it was abominable that the segment was done by a news organization. He says it feeds "the ignorant misconceptions of a rich and proud people who unfortunately are too often portrayed as caricatures to be scoffed at."

The holiday marks an 1862 battle victory by Mexican troops. It is celebrated in the U.S. with parades and revelry.

Photos from Chris Brown bodyguard trial released

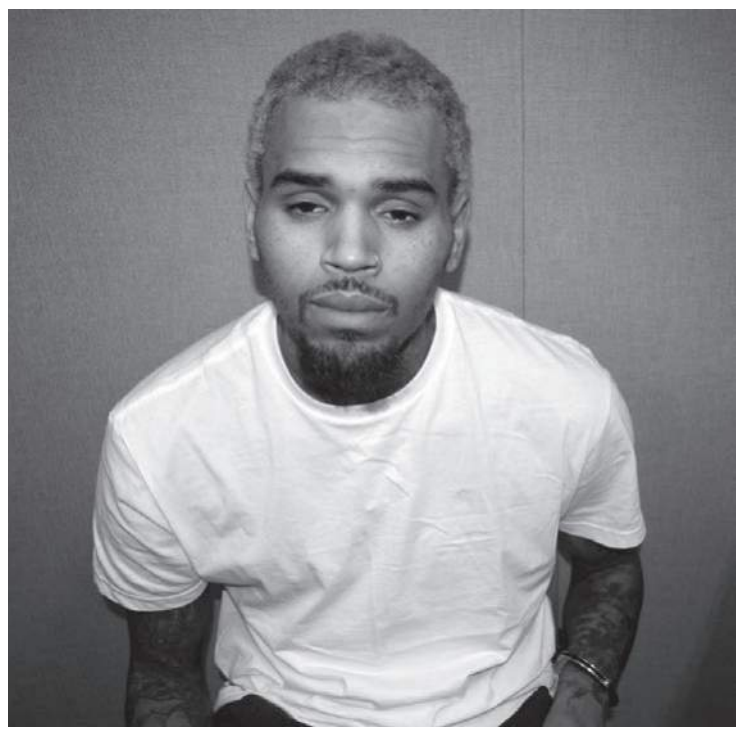
WASHINGTON (AP)—A U.S. judge has approved the release of five photos that prosecutors entered into evidence in the assault trial of singer Chris Brown's bodyguard.

One image shows Brown posing with two women outside a Washington hotel last year before the alleged assault. Another shows Brown and bodyguard Christopher Hollosy in custody.

Other images show Parker Adams, the man the pair are accused of punching after he tried to get on the singer's tour bus, with a bloody nose and shirt.

Hollosy was convicted of assault and plans to appeal. Brown's trial was delayed for months. Hollosy told police that he, not Brown, punched Adams.

Brown is in custody in California, where he faces probation issues over his 2009 attack on then-girlfriend singer Rihanna. No new trial date is set in Washington.



AP

This photo provided by U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, shows a photo of Chris Brown, one of five photos that prosecutors entered into evidence in the assault trial of Christopher Hollosy, the bodyguard of Brown.

Fox orders shows from Lee Daniels, Spielberg

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A family drama about a hip-hop business empire from filmmaker Lee Daniels and a coming-of-age series from Steven Spielberg will be part of Fox's 2014-15 season, the network said Tuesday.

Daniels, the director of "Lee Daniels' The Butler" and "Precious," is writing, directing and producing "Empire," starring Terence Howard and Taraji P. Henson, Fox said.

The series will feature original music and covers of current songs.

Spielberg is among the producers of "Red Band Society," with an ensemble cast starring Octavia Spencer. Fox described the series as an unconventional drama-comedy about teenagers that's set in a hospital pediatric wing.

Also Tuesday, NBC announced a new sitcom for next season, "Marry Me," starring Casey Wilson and Ken Marino as two apparently star-crossed lovers, and two new political dramas.

Hope Davis and Scott Cohen star in "Allegiance," about a CIA analyst who learns his parents are former Russian agents being called back into service.

"State of Affairs" will star Alfre Woodard as U.S. president and Katherine Heigl as a CIA analyst who shares a tragic loss with her.

NBC also said it will air the drama "Odyssey," about strangers fighting an international conspiracy involving the military, corporate interests and Middle Eastern terrorists. Anna Friel and Peter Facinelli star.

The announcements preceded next week's network fall schedule presentations to advertisers in New York.

Lisa Kudrow's 'The Comeback' to return to HBO this fall

Valerie Cherish just won't quit: Nine years after it last aired, "The Comeback" will return to HBO this fall for a limited, six-episode run.

The original series, a sharp satire of show business and reality television, was created by "Friends" star Lisa Kudrow and "Sex and the City" show runner Michael Patrick King. It follows Cherish, a washed-up sitcom actress, played in a meta twist by Kudrow, as she attempts to make a Hollywood comeback. Her efforts are filmed for a faux reality series, also called "The Comeback."

The comedy, which received low ratings and middling reviews, was canceled in 2005 after just 13 episodes on HBO, prompting snarky headlines about Kudrow's post-"Friends" career. Despite, or perhaps because of, its short run, the series has since been embraced as a cult classic. Rumors began to swirl about a possible return of "The Comeback" a few weeks ago, and on Monday HBO made it official.

"'The Comeback' holds a special place in the hearts of its many fans, including many of us here at HBO," said president HBO programming president Michael Lombardo in a statement. "I can't wait to find out what Valerie's been up to since we last met."

So just what might that be? HBO's announcement included scant information about what the new season will entail, only hinting that "Valerie thinks she has it all figured out this time. She doesn't." ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Sleeve tattoo could raise eyebrows at black tie event

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a young professional female with a military background. I'm well-educated and have a great job. However, I am also tattooed. The design is a tasteful full sleeve, with some work on my chest and other arm.

I will be attending a black tie affair for my boyfriend's company and am wondering what attire would be appropriate for such an event. I'm not ashamed of my art, and I have no issue with baring my arms, but would this be acceptable in this circumstance?

FOREVER COVERED

DEAR FOREVER COVERED: I'm glad you asked, because it depends upon what kind of company your boyfriend works for. If it's creative, then to display your body art would not be shocking. However, if the company culture is conservative, it might attract unwelcome attention, and I don't recommend it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been intimately involved with another woman. Our relationship has been great for the past eight months. There is an immense amount of love and caring for each other. Although we have been together, we do not currently live together.

My problem is she's still living with her ex-husband. They have been separated for 12 years, but circumstances have brought them back into the same residence. I don't have an issue with their "roommate" situation. I have been to their home, have stayed the night and I'm OK with their arrangement.

What I DO take issue with is him introducing himself as her husband. Since I heard him do that, I have been in an uncomfortable state. Am I wrong for feeling this way, or is she wrong for allowing it to happen?

SEETHING IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR SEETHING: Whether this couple has been separated for 12 years or not, they are still legally married. He IS her husband. You may be feeling uncomfortable because you feel like you may be involved in a triangle, and from where I sit, it may be true. It's time to have a frank conversation with your partner to clarify exactly what your role is.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been trying to plan my son and future daughter-in-law's rehearsal dinner. The bride originally told me a local pizza place would be fine for the dinner. I insisted that I would like something "nicer," and she said it was up to me.

I have found a place within budget, but have just learned that the bridal shower is being catered by the same place. Is it acceptable for me to have the rehearsal at the same place?

We live in a town with relatively limited options, and there are other important festivities going on that day that limit my options further. Holding the rehearsal dinner at my house would be too stressful. Would it be OK to have it at the same restaurant, but serve different food?

FUTURE MOTHER-IN-LAW

DEAR FUTURE MOTHER-IN-LAW: Absolutely! And congratulations on the forthcoming happy event.

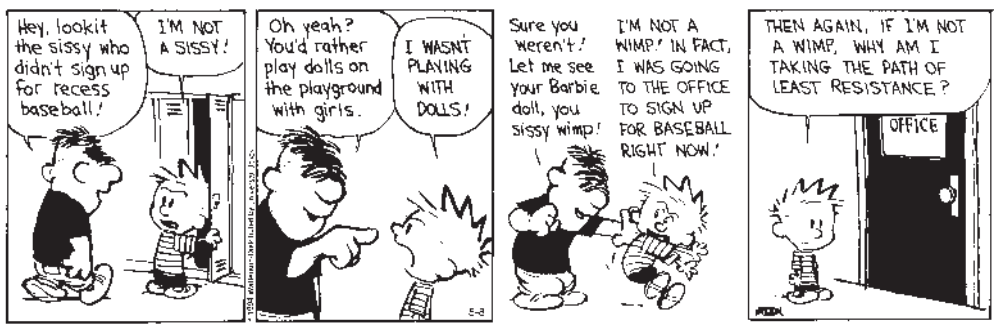
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

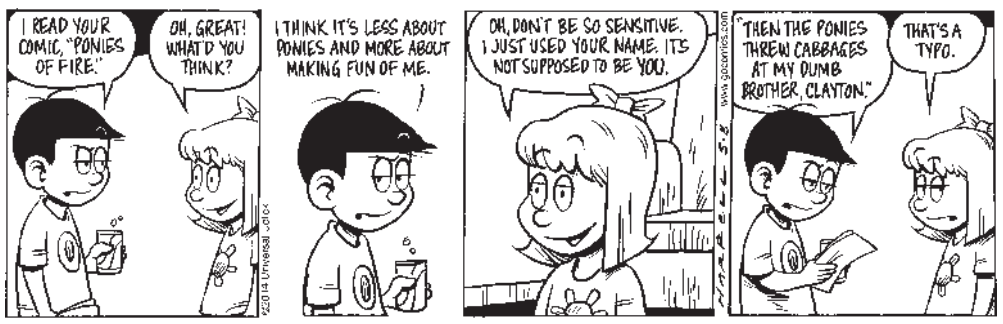

Hey, lookit the sissy who didn't sign up for recess baseball!
I'M NOT A SISSY!
Oh yeah? You'd rather play dolls on the playground with girls.
I WASN'T PLAYING WITH DOLLS!
Sure you weren't! Let me see your Barbie doll, you sissy wimp!
I'M NOT A WIMP! IN FACT, I WAS GOING TO THE OFFICE TO SIGN UP FOR BASEBALL RIGHT NOW!
THEN AGAIN, IF I'M NOT A WIMP, WHY AM I TAKING THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE?
OFFICE

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

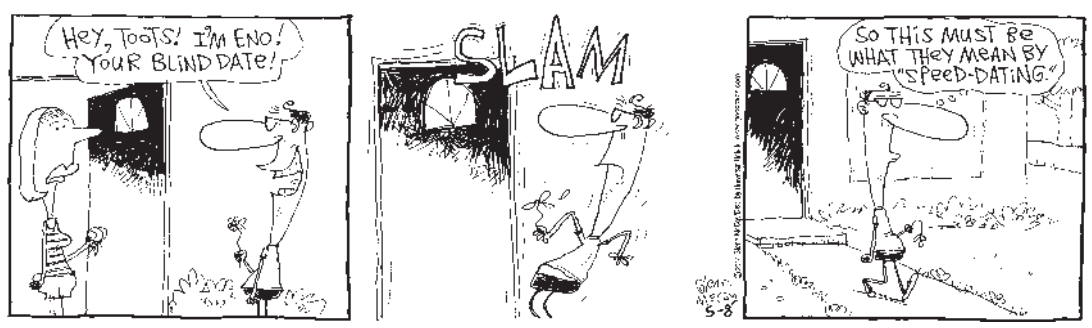
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I READ YOUR COMIC, "PONIES OF FIRE."
OH, GREAT! WHAT'D YOU THINK?
I THINK IT'S LESS ABOUT PONIES AND MORE ABOUT MAKING FUN OF ME.
OH, DON'T BE SO SENSITIVE. I JUST USED YOUR NAME. ITS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE YOU.
"THEN THE PONIES THREW CABBAGES AT MY DUMB BROTHER, CLAYTON."
THAT'S A TYPO.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

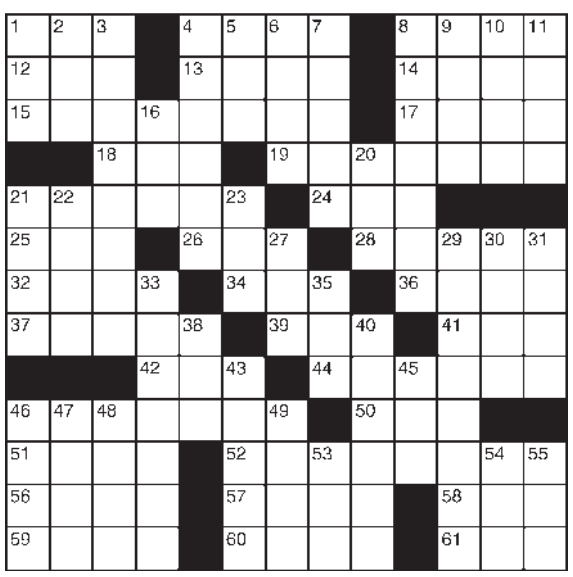
ACROSS
1 Blond shade
4 Raced
8 Poet
12 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
13 Hawaiian city
14 "I cannot tell —"
15 Sites for swingers?
17 Pleasing
18 Author Buscaglia
19 State legislator
21 Pedestal part
24 Junior
25 W. Hemisphere org.
26 Scatter seeds
28 "Real Time" moderator
32 Choose
34 Fruit stone
36 Auction, for one
37 Old anaesthetic
39 Talk on and on
41 Crazed
42 Arrest
44 Carter's Georgia home
46 Shipment from Florida
50 Everyone
51 On the qui —
52 Overacts
56 Walkman descendant
57 Touch
58 Inseparable
59 Say it isn't so
60 Bad hairpieces
61 Present

DOWN
1 Interlaken interjection
2 Hot tub
3 Marvin of Broadway
4 Launches
5 Photo
6 Fraternal group
7 Measures of meds
8 Woody Allen movie
9 Dismounted
10 Puerto —
11 Antelope's playmate
16 Chaps
20 Artesian appellation
21 Francis, for one
22 Cafe additive
23 Bound
27 Peruke
29 $10 portrait
30 Verve
31 Wine-list section
33 "Ich bin ein Berliner" speaker
35 Spigot
38 Erstwhile garment
40 Explosions
43 "The View" alumna Joy
45 Foreman foe
46 "Metamorphoses" writer
47 Mature
48 Revlon rival
49 Hollywood's "Elephant Boy"
53 Oktoberfest souvenir
54 Popular card game
55 Congregants' seat

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	T	S		P	A	D	S		O	L	A	F
L	I	T		O	B	I	T		X	E	N	A
A	M	Y		S	E	M	A	N	I	C	S	
T	E	X	A	S			B	O	A			
			R	E	I	D		T	I	D	A	L
S	E	M	E	S	I	E	H		L	A	V	A
O	R	A		S	I	L	O	S		L	O	N
P	I	L	E		S	E	M	O	L	I	N	A
H	F	I	I	O		D	F	U	X			
			O	W	L			R	I	V	E	T
S	E	M	I	N	O	L	E	S		A	X	E
O	T	I	S		G	O	G	O		M	I	A
W	A	D	E		S	O	O	N		P	T	S

Yesterday's answer 5-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Enrique Iglesias, 39; Melissa Gilbert, 50; David Keith, 60; Don Rickles, 88

Happy Birthday: Problems with authority figures and institutions will prevail if you don't take a realistic approach when dealing with health, home and financial issues. Get agreements in writing. Evasiveness or dishonesty is likely to surface, making it necessary to do background checks. Put greater emphasis on offering clear-cut suggestions so as to not lead anyone astray. Your numbers are 6, 15, 19, 24, 26, 34, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't waste time or you will be criticized. Set your sights on what will bring the highest return and move in that direction. If you achieve what you set out to, a celebration will lead to love and romance. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Collaborate with friends or make time for children. Expand your ideas and express your thoughts. Attend a conference or event that gets you thinking and connects you to interesting people and prospects. A good partnership should be considered. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let anyone take you for granted. You may like to lend a helping hand, but making donations or offering your time and talent for nothing will not end well. Expect someone you know to have ulterior motives. Proceed with caution. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let what someone else does deter you from doing your own thing. You may not please everyone, but it's important that you feel good about what you do. A change at home or with a friendship will help liberate you. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make personal changes and try something new. What you do to change your current situation personally or professionally will pay off. The people you meet and the direction you take will lead to a better position and a bright future. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let uncertainty hold you back. Ask questions and do whatever it takes to get the information you require to make a wise decision regarding your future. The added responsibilities you take on will bring high returns. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't believe everything you hear. Take control of any conversation you engage in and lay the facts and figures out for everyone to see. Don't beat around the bush. Today is about taking action and getting things done. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You will stand out in the crowd, so take advantage and step into the spotlight where you can make a difference. Voice your opinion and do your best to bring about positive change, and it will improve your life at work and at home. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Listen to what's being said, but don't make promises. You have to find out more before you concur to follow through with someone else's plans. Put more time into your home, family and romantic life, and you will make progress. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Search for information instead of taking someone's word. It's important to protect against emotional, financial or physical encounters that threaten you. A partnership can turn out to be costly if you cannot agree. Massage the situation and position yourself to win. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Remembering the past will help you move forward. Getting together with old friends or resurrecting a project you left unfinished will lead you in a positive direction. Love is on the rise and romance should be a priority. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Let your charm shine through. You can stabilize your position and take care of pressing business matters if you do so with finesse. Your imagination and curiosity will attract someone you find intriguing and worth collaborating with. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical and congenial. You are smart and a go-getter.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			3		1			
		2				5		
	4		5		6		9	
3		7				2		4
				8				
2		1				7		8
	3		7		5		4	
		9				1		
			8		3			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	4	3	2	6	5	7	1
6	1	3	7	8	5	9	2	4
7	2	5	4	9	1	3	8	6
2	6	7	5	3	9	4	1	8
4	8	9	2	1	7	6	5	3
5	3	1	6	4	8	7	9	2
1	5	8	9	6	4	2	3	7
3	7	6	8	5	2	1	4	9
9	4	2	1	7	3	8	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JAMES AVERY (1945-2013) **Solution: 12 letters**

A	A	F	L	E	T	C	H	O	N	E	Y	B	E	E
M	C	A	C	T	L	P	D	L	S	K	R	A	P	S
E	L	T	L	S	L	R	N	I	V	E	K	A	S	P
N	A	E	O	H	A	O	I	K	I	C	K	S	R	I
J	R	A	S	R	T	U	R	T	L	E	S	S	E	D
N	U	M	E	E	A	D	G	S	C	T	R	S	T	E
I	E	D	R	D	B	C	H	N	S	E	Ⓡ	P	A	R
E	C	I	G	D	E	E	I	R	Y	D	Ⓞ	A	W	M
C	B	R	R	E	R	R	E	L	A	E	Ⓒ	C	R	A
N	A	I	E	R	P	H	F	N	T	P	T	E	I	N
E	R	A	Y	H	T	T	I	R	S	H	O	U	T	E
R	B	L	S	O	H	K	Y	L	L	I	H	P	E	M
O	A	E	R	G	A	R	G	O	Y	L	E	S	R	G
L	R	B	I	R	O	N	M	A	N	I	N	J	A	E
F	A	N	A	T	O	M	Y	Y	E	P	O	C	H	L

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Actor, Amen, Anatomy, A-Team, Barbara, Bel-Air, Brothers, Closer, Danika, Epoch, Fletch, Florence, Fresh Prince, Gargoyles, Grey's, Grind, Honeybee, Iron Man, Judge, Kevin, Kicks, LaRue, Legmen, Nightflyers, Ninja, Philip, Philly, Poetry, Proud, Reba, Roc, Sherry, Shout, Shredder, Space, Sparks, Spider-Man, Tall, Turtles, Waters, Writer

Yesterday's Answer: Stitching

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Saipan Tribune

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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- With 4 to 5 years experience

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Phone 233-5368.

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- Must be certified or holds electrical license, air conditioning and refrigeration certification.
- Willing to work in flexible hours
- $5.55 - $8.00/hour

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- Troubleshooting, repair and installation.
- Must hold at least universal license or EPA approved technician.
- Willing to work in a flexible hours.
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Balanced Heat take Game 1, top Brooklyn, 107-86

MIAMI (AP)—Turns out, the Miami Heat can beat the Brooklyn Nets.

And rest hardly led to rust for the two-time defending NBA champions.

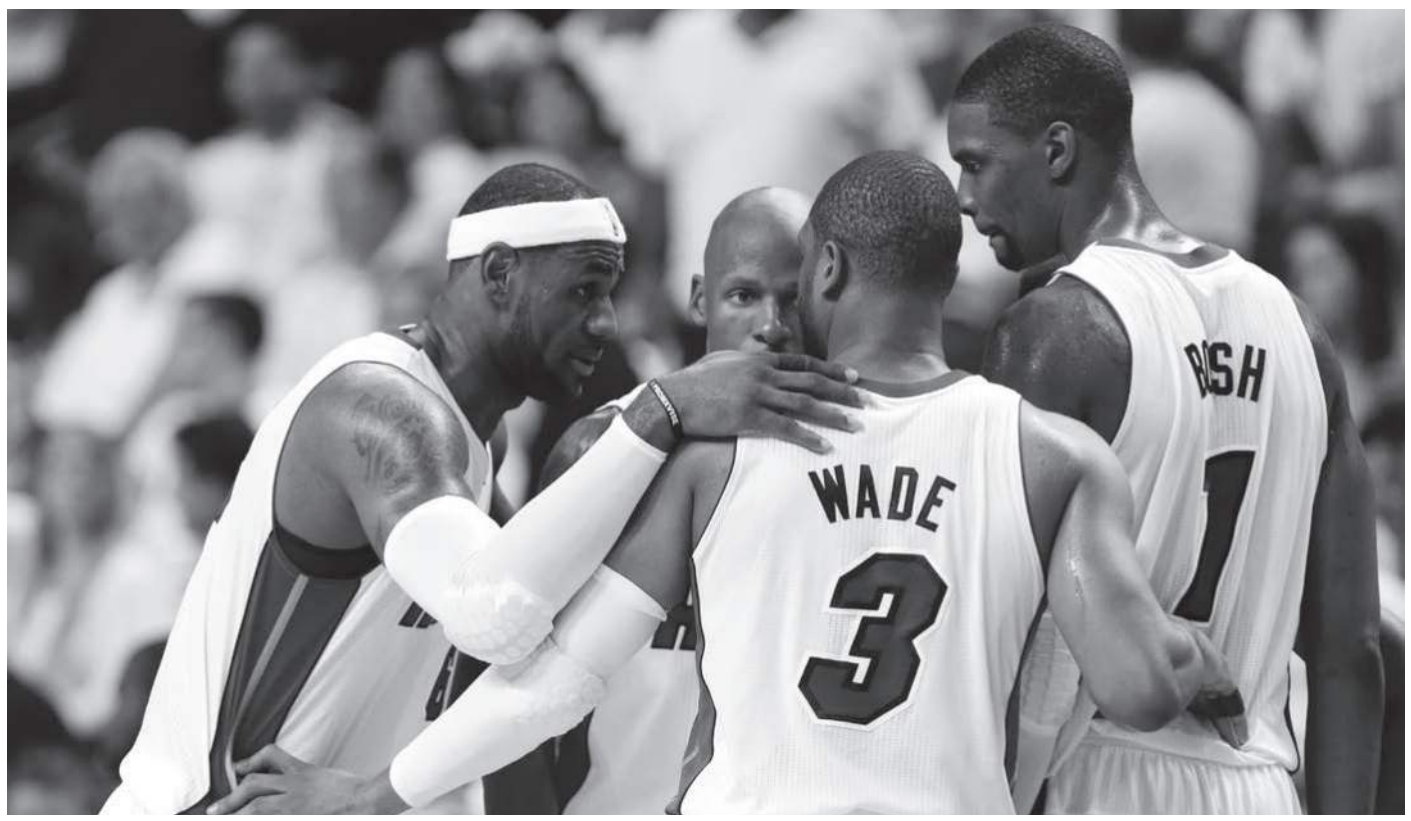
LeBron James scored 22 points, Ray Allen added 19 and the Heat stayed perfect in this postseason by beating the Nets 107-86 on Tuesday night in Game 1 of an Eastern Conference semifinal series. It was the first win for Miami in five meetings with Brooklyn this season.

"It's one," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "But I liked the energy, the activity."

Chris Bosh scored 15 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, Dwyane Wade finished with 14 points and Mario Chalmers had 12 for Miami, which recorded at least one regular-season win against every team except Brooklyn, losing four times by a total of 12 points.

This one was a different story. A 24-9 run in the third quarter blew things open for the Heat, who hadn't played in eight days after sweeping Charlotte in the opening round.

"It was great that we were able to come out the way we did after being off eight days," James said. "We got a lot of work in. We had eight days off of not playing a basketball game but Spo got us in the gym. (We) got each other in the gym. We made each other accountable throughout the layoff and it proved tonight."



AP

Miami Heat's LeBron James, left, Dwyane Wade (3), Chris Bosh (1) and Ray Allen, center, huddle on the court in the second half of Game 1 in an NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinal playoff series against the Brooklyn Nets, Tuesday, May 6, 2014, in Miami.

Deron Williams and Joe Johnson scored 17 points each for the Nets, who got only eight from Paul Pierce and no points from Kevin Garnett in 16 minutes.

Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is Thursday night.

"This is the defending champs," Nets coach Jason Kidd said. "It's always going to be at a high level and we've got to find a way to match it."

James finished 10 for 15 from the field and Allen—who had never faced his former Boston "Big 3" compatriots Pierce and Garnett in the playoffs—was 4 of 7 from 3-point land.

"He was focused on the job at hand," James said.

Miami's lead was 55-52 early in the third quarter after a 3-pointer by Williams, and every indication was that the Heat and Nets—who played three one-point games and a double-overtime affair in the regular season—were heading down to the wire again.

Not quite.

The Heat took off on the 24-9 run over a 7-minute span, with Bosh scoring the first seven points of that burst to get Miami going. Allen's 3-pointer pushed the lead to 14, James and Chris Andersen (who left in the fourth with a right knee contusion) added two free throws apiece and just like that Miami's lead was up to 79-61.

"It's fun when you win the game and you can at least for a night do whatever it is you do, have some dinner, chill at home and exhale a little bit," Bosh said. "When you lose, you can't sleep, your stomach hurts and it's not a very good situation."

For Brooklyn, the trouble came at an unexpected time. The Nets had the best third-quarter scoring differential in the East after Jan. 1, but were outscored 33-23 in that pivotal quarter in Game 1.

Pregame lineup moves by both clubs lent more intrigue. Miami brought Shane Battier—who played 2 minutes, total, in the first round against Charlotte—back into the starting five, while Brooklyn reinserted Shaun Livingston into its lineup after using him off the bench late in the Toronto series.

After never leading by more than seven points against Brooklyn in the regular season, the Heat led by 11 after a drive by James with 3:32 left in the first half. But the Nets closed on a 14-6 run, and Williams' first beat-the-clock 3-pointer of the game sent Brooklyn into halftime down 46-43.

Williams did it again in the third, but that one only got Brooklyn within 79-66.

"It came down to defense tonight," Williams said. "Our defensive game plan was not executed at all."

Thunder star Kevin Durant wins first MVP award

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Kevin Durant has plenty of scoring titles. Now, he finally has an MVP trophy to go with them.

The Oklahoma City Thunder star won the NBA's top individual honor Tuesday, receiving 119 first-place votes. Miami's LeBron James, who had won the last two MVP awards and four of the previous five, finished second with six first-place votes, and Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers was third.

"Everything in my life, I had to take it," Durant said at a ceremony in Edmond. "They're not going to give it to you out of sympathy. I wouldn't want it any other way. This was another case, if I wanted to win the MVP, I had to go take it. I felt that this was the year I did that."

Durant won his fourth scoring crown in five years by averaging 32 points. The 6-foot-9 forward helped the Thunder go 59-23, second-best in the league, despite playing much of the season without three-time All-Star Russell Westbrook by his side because of a nagging knee injury.

"He's basically put himself in front of everybody else in the league and shown that he's the best player in the world," Westbrook said at the end of the regular season.

James agreed, saying Monday: "Much respect to him and he deserves it. He had a big-time MVP season."

Durant's run of 41 consecutive games this season with at least 25 points was the third-longest streak in NBA history.

"It was a two-man race, and then toward the end, it was kind of a no-brainer," Griffin said.

James averaged 27.1 points, 6.9 rebounds and 6.3 assists while shooting nearly 57 percent from the field.

Griffin averaged 24.1 points and 10.1 rebounds.

"It's an honor, really," he said of finishing third. "It's hard to believe. I'm honored and humbled by that."

Durant scored at least 40 points 14 times. He also averaged 7.4 rebounds and a career-high 5.5 assists while shooting 50 percent from the field.

While Westbrook was out after his most recent knee surgery, Durant averaged 35 points and 6.3 assists as the Thunder went 20-7 and remained among the league's elite.

Westbrook's injury gave Durant an opportunity to use his improving skills as a playmaker.

"I've always been a player that was excited for my teammates' success," Durant said.

Teammates and opponents say Durant became a more complete player this season. They praised him for improving his court vision, consistently making the extra pass and moving more efficiently without the ball.

Warriors fire coach Mark Jackson after 3 seasons

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Mark Jackson came to the Golden State Warriors talking big and brash. He promised playoff appearances and championships, and he delivered plenty of wins along the way.

Away from the court, though, Jackson never backed down from doing things how he wanted. His inability to mesh with management—and management's inability to mesh with Jackson—increasingly overshadowed his success and ultimately cost him his job.

The Warriors fired Jackson after three seasons Tuesday, ending the franchise's most successful coaching tenure in the past two decades but also one filled with drama and distractions.

"Obviously it was not made exclusively on wins and losses," Warriors owner Joe Lacob said.

Lacob and general manager Bob Myers both thanked Jackson, saying he helped make the Warriors a more attractive franchise. But Myers said the decision to dismiss Jackson was "unanimous" among the team's executives—though still not easy—in part because the Warriors want a coach who can "develop a synergy" with everybody in basketball operations.

Jackson's time with the Warriors will be remembered for the way he helped turn a perennially losing franchise into a consistent winner and the bold and bombastic way in which he did it.

He guaranteed Golden State would make the playoffs in his first season, then finished 23-36 after the NBA labor lockout. The Warriors went 47-35 last season and had a memorable run to the second round of the playoffs, and they were 51-31 this season before losing in seven games to the Los Angeles Clippers in the first round.

The Warriors, who have surrounded star Stephen Curry with a talented nucleus since Lacob's group bought the franchise in 2010, had not made the playoffs in consecutive years since 1991-92. They had made the postseason once in 17 years before Jackson arrived.

Lacob compared the decision to replace Jackson to his work as a venture capitalist in Silicon Valley.

"There's a different CEO that may be required to achieve success at different stages of an organization's development," Lacob said. "When you're a startup company it's one thing, when you're a small-growth company it's one thing and when you're a mature company that's trying to reach a billion in sales—or in this case win an NBA championship—perhaps that's a different person. And we just felt overall we needed a different person."

Lacob and Myers declined to discuss the coaching search, other than to say it would begin immediately. Former NBA player and TNT broadcaster Steve Kerr, former Orlando Magic coach Stan Van Gundy, Iowa State's Fred Hoiberg and Connecticut's Kevin Ollie have been among the most talked-about candidates this offseason.

Spurs 116, Blazers 92

In San Antonio, Tony Parker had 33 points and nine assists and the San Antonio Spurs never trailed in a resounding 116-92 victory over Portland, bullying the younger Trail Blazers in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals Tuesday night.

Kawhi Leonard had 16 points and Tim Duncan added 12 points and 11 rebounds for San Antonio.

More importantly for the Spurs, their bench contributed mightily after being virtually non-existent in the series against Dallas.

Marco Belinelli had 19 points and the Australian connection of Aron Baynes and Patty Mills had 10 points apiece.

The Spurs had their most complete game of the postseason, playing with the flair and fluidity that resulted in the league's best regular season record.

Portland, meanwhile, didn't come close to resembling the confident and sharp-shooting group that upset Houston in the opening round.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 32 points and 14 rebounds and Damian Lillard had 17 points for Portland, but the All-Star duo combined for just 17 points in the first half as San Antonio built a 26-point lead.

Giants fall to Pirates on overturned call in 9th

PITTSBURGH (AP)— Starling Marte was called out, then ruled safe on a replay review with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, lifting the Pittsburgh Pirates over San Francisco 2-1 Tuesday night and ending the Giants' six-game winning streak.

It was 1-all when Marte tripled off the right-field wall against Tim Hudson. Marte slid into third, got up and bolted home when the relay from second baseman Ehire Adrianza skipped by third baseman Pablo Sandoval.

Sandoval recovered to throw home and plate umpire Quinn Wolcott initially ruled Marte was tagged by San Francisco catcher Buster Posey. A brief review showed Marte's right hand touched the plate before Posey tagged his chest.

Tony Watson (3-0) worked one inning. Marte scored both Pittsburgh runs and Ike Davis added two hits.

Hudson (4-2) allowed two runs on five hits in 8 2-3 innings, striking out five and walking one.

AP

After a play at the plate Pittsburgh Pirates' Starling Marte, right, turns to umpire Quinn Wolcott who makes the out call in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

Marlins 3, Mets 0

In Miami, Henderson Alvarez pitched a six-hitter for his second shutout this season, and the Marlins won again at home, beating the Mets.

Miami improved to a major league-best 16-5 at Marlins Park, and is 7-1 on its current homestand with one game left. They clinched the series and have won seven of their eight home series—the Marlins are 2-10 on the road.

Alvarez (2-2) struck out seven, walked none and threw 111 pitches. His only other victory this year was a complete-game 7-0 victory over Seattle on April 19.

He now has four career shutouts, including a no-hitter against Detroit on the final day of last season.

Casey McGehee had a pair of RBI singles.

Bartolo Colon (2-5) took the loss. He also went 0 for 2, striking out both times, leaving Mets pitchers at 0 for 56 this season with 30 strikeouts.

Braves 2, Cardinals 1

In Atlanta, Justin Upton homered and scored the tiebreaking run on Chris Johnson's eighth-inning single, and the Braves beat the Cardinals to end their seven-game skid.

Braves right-hander Gavin Floyd was impressive in his season debut, allowing one run on six hits in seven innings.

Floyd made his first major league start since April 27, 2013, for the White Sox against Tampa Bay. He had season-ending Tommy John surgery 10 days later, and his comeback included six minor league rehab starts this year.

David Carpenter (2-0) had two strikeouts in a perfect eighth. Craig Kimbrel had two strikeouts in a perfect ninth for his ninth save.

St. Louis left-hander Tyler Lyons allowed only one run on four hits, including Upton's homer, in six innings.

Dodgers 8, Nationals 3

In Washington, Clayton Kershaw pitched seven shutout innings in his first outing since opening day, and Hanley Ramirez and Drew Butera homered as the Dodgers defeated the Nationals.

Kershaw (2-0) was stubborn in his return after missing 32 games, allowing nine hits but striking out nine without a walk.

The two-time NL Cy Young winner had been on the disabled list for the first time in his career, sidelined by a strained back muscle after winning March 22 in the major league opener in Australia.

The Dodgers kept outfielder Yasiel Puig out for the second straight game since he crashed into an outfield wall in the ninth inning Sunday at Miami.

Jayson Werth had four hits for the Nationals.

Blake Treinen (0-1), making his first major league start, allowed three unearned runs in five-plus innings.

Diamondbacks 7, Brewers 5

In Milwaukee, Aaron Hill hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning after Miguel Montero had a tying single, rallying the Diamondbacks past the Brewers.

Evan Marshall (1-0) pitched 1 1-3 innings of scoreless relief in his major league debut for the victory. Addison Reed pitched a scoreless ninth inning to record his ninth save in 10 opportunities.

Paul Goldschmidt and Chris Owings also homered for Arizona, which has won five of its last seven games on the road.

Brandon Kintzler (1-1) gave up the three runs in the eighth.

Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer in the first inning off Milwaukee starter Marco Estrada. The Brewers scored for five runs in the bottom half off Josh Collmenter.

Blue Jays 6, Phillies 5, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Juan Francisco's sacrifice fly in the 10th inning lifted the Blue Jays to a win over the Phillies.

Cody Asche hit a game-tying grand slam in the sixth to help the Phillies rally from a 5-0 deficit, but they were swept in a two-game portion of a four-game, home-and-home interleague series. The teams meet Wednesday night in Toronto.

Edwin Encarnacion and Colby Rasmus went deep for the Blue Jays. Marcus Stroman (1-0) pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings for his first career win. Aaron Loup got the final two outs for his second save.

White Sox 5, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Gordon Beckham's tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning helped the White Sox beat the rival Cubs.

Beckham was 1 for 6 in the White Sox's 3-1, 12-inning win Monday over the Cubs, but he matched a career high with four hits Tuesday. The fourth one, on a 1-2 pitch with two outs from Neil Ramirez (0-1), gave Beckham his first homer of the season and the White Sox the lead, one they held to sweep the two-game series at Wrigley Field.

The teams start a two-game series Wednesday across town at U.S. Cellular Field.

Moises Sierra had a career-high four hits for the White Sox, starting in place of Adam Dunn who was scratched about 30 minutes before the first pitch because of a bruised right calf. Dunn did pinch-hit for reliever Zach Putnam in the eighth and grounded out to short.

Putnam (1-0) got the win.

Royals 3, Padres 1, 11 innings

In San Diego, Alex Gordon singled in the go-ahead run with one out in the 11th inning and pinch-hitter Billy Butler followed with an RBI double for the Royals, who beat San Diego to snap their season-high five-game losing streak.

Eric Hosmer started the winning rally when he hit a leadoff double to center off Nick Vincent (0-1). Gordon singled to right with one out and Hosmer beat the throw home with a headfirst slide, touching the plate with his left hand.

Butler then doubled in Gordon.

Wade Davis (2-1) pitched two innings of one-hit ball for for the victory, striking out four. Greg Holland, who blew the save Monday night, pitched the 11th for his eighth save in nine chances.

Rockies 12, Rangers 1

In Denver, Carlos Gonzalez had five of Colorado's season-high 21 hits and Nolan Arenado made several slick plays at third base on a night he extended his hitting streak to 26 games as the Rockies routed the Rangers.

It's the third time in Gonzalez's career he's had five hits in a game. Arenado waited until his final at-bat in the seventh to extend his streak, lacing an RBI double that hit just inside the left-field line. He's one away from tying the team record of 27 set by Michael Cuddyer last season.

Juan Nicasio (4-1) got through five innings without his best command, giving up two hits and one run. He also walked a season-high five.

Robbie Ross Jr. (1-3) had a rough outing as he allowed six runs and 12 hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Tigers 11, Astros 4

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera homered for his first of four hits and four RBIs, Robbie Ray gave up one run in his debut and the Detroit Tigers routed the Houston Astros for their season-high seventh straight win.

Houston, which has the worst record in the majors, lost its fourth in a row and sixth in seven games.

Ray (1-0) gave up one run, five hits, a walk and struck out five in 5 1-3 innings in his first game in the majors.

Brett Oberholtzer (0-6) allowed four runs on nine hits, two sacrifice flies and a walk over six innings.

Indians 4, Twins 2

In Cleveland, Josh Tomlin earned his first major league win since 2012, pitching into the seventh inning and leading the Indians past the Twins.

Tomlin (1-0) allowed one run and four hits in 6 2-3 innings. He was called up from Triple-A Columbus before the game after missing most of last year while recovering from Tommy John surgery.

Tomlin struck out four, walked one and won for the first time since July 5, 2012, with the Indians. He had his elbow operation the next month.

The right-hander took a two-hit shutout into the seventh before Chris Colabello homered.

Samuel Deduno (0-2) allowed four runs in five innings in his first start of the season.

Orioles 5, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Ryan Flaherty and Nick Markakis both drove in a run after a power outage in the eighth inning and the Orioles beat the Rays.

The 19-minute delay came after a series of lights went out at Tropicana Field. The outage was soon after Steve Clevenger's one-out double off Joel Peralta (1-2) put runners on second third.

After Steve Pearce walked, an RBI single by Flaherty and Markakis' run-scoring grounder gave Baltimore the two-run lead.

Tampa Bay pulled even at 3 when Ben Zobrist hit a sacrifice fly off Darren O'Day (1-0) in the seventh.

Yankees 4, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Brian Roberts hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the ninth inning, and the Yankees beat the Angels 4-3 for just their second victory in seven games.

Roberts had an early RBI single before he connected with two outs against Ernesto Frieri (0-3), putting his first homer with his new club into the elevated right field stands at Angel Stadium.

Mike Trout tripled and scored the tying run on Albert Pujols' two-out single off Shawn Kelley (1-2) in the eighth inning for the Angels, who had won five of seven on their nine-game homestand.

Alfonso Soriano had an RBI single in the eighth inning for the Yankees.

David Robertson pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Mariners 8, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Calif., rookie Roenis Elias struck out six while pitching into the seventh to win consecutive starts for the first time, Justin Smoak drove in three runs and the Mariners beat the Athletics for their season-best fourth straight victory.

Smoak hit an RBI double and Dustin Ackley an RBI single in the first to back Elias (3-2), who followed up a 10-strikeout gem at Yankee Stadium his last time out with another impressive start.

The Mariners jumped on Jesse Chavez (2-1) to take a quick first-inning lead for the second straight game against the A's — and Seattle scored all three of its first-inning runs with two outs on the way to its ninth win in 11 games overall.

Red Sox 4, Reds 3, 12 innings

In Boston, Grady Sizemore lined one off the Green Monster to score the game-winning run in the 12th inning and the Red Sox beat the Reds.

It was the longest game between the two teams since the Red Sox won Game 6 of the 1975 World Series on Carlton Fisk's 12th-inning homer.

Craig Breslow (1-0) pitched one inning of scoreless relief for the win.

Logan Ondrusek (0-2) took the loss. He pitched a scoreless 11th but gave up singles to David Ortiz and Mike Napoli before Sizemore hit a liner off the left field Wall.

Top Clippers exec Roeser taking leave of absence

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles Clippers President Andy Roeser is taking an indefinite leave of absence while the NBA restructures the franchise in the wake of owner Donald Sterling's lifetime ban.

Roeser's immediate departure was announced Tuesday by the NBA. The league announced plans last week to appoint a CEO to oversee the franchise in Sterling's absence.

"This will provide an opportunity for a new CEO to begin on a clean slate and for the team to stabilize under difficult circumstances," NBA spokesman Mike Bass said.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver banned Sterling for life, fined him $2.5 million and urged owners to force him to sell the Clippers a week ago, responding to league-wide outrage over racist comments made by the 80-year-old real-estate mogul.

Sterling is the NBA's longest-tenured owner after buying the Clippers in 1981. Roeser, one of the Clippers' alternate governors, is one of the league's longest-tenured executives, having just completed his 30th season with the team.

The announcement of Roeser's leave surprised Clippers coach Doc Rivers while he prepared the team for Game 2 of its second-round playoff series in Oklahoma City on Tuesday.

"I knew they were going to bring in a new CEO eventually, but it is (a surprise)," Rivers said. "I just didn't know about it. I'm glad I didn't know about it, actually. I think the NBA is doing their job, and we're just trying to keep this thing together."

Roeser has been a loyal frontman for Sterling since the franchise's days in San Diego, and he stood by Sterling during every controversial stretch of the owner's career. Only radio and television play-by-play announcer Ralph Lawler has worked for the Clippers longer than the 54-year-old Roeser, who became team president in 2007.

But Roeser infuriated many longtime Clippers employees last week after Sterling's private conversation was made public by TMZ.

While nearly everyone else was reacting with outrage, Roeser released a statement questioning whether the recordings of Sterling were legitimate, while simultaneously apologizing on Sterling's behalf for sentiments about Magic Johnson on the recordings. Roeser's statement was sympathetic to Sterling and criticized V. Stiviano, Sterling's longtime associate and the other voice on the recordings.

SBL to hold Micro Games fundraiser on May 15

The Saipan Baseball League will hold yet another fundraiser for the CNMI Men's National Baseball Team's trip to the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

The fundraiser will be held on May 15, from 5:30pm to 11pm at the Garapan Central Park next to Gold's Gym in Chinatown.

"The Happy Hour Fundraiser is for the benefit of the CNMI Men's National Baseball Team's overall expenses that includes airfare, accommodations, and meals. The team is the holder of the last Micronesian Games silver Medal held in Palau in 2010. Live entertainment will be provided and a great time is indeed a guarantee. Raffle tickets will also be on sale for a chance to win many prizes at a raffle drawing to be held next month," said SBL's Rose Igitol.

Ticket for the fundraiser cost $10 and is inclusive of a free drink (Budweiser, Bud Lite, or Aloha Maid).

The fundraiser is being held in collaboration with Budweiser, Aloha Maid, KKMP, KSPN2, *Saipan Tribune*, and *Marianas Variety*.

"Please join us this evening to witness the introduction of our CNMI Men's National Baseball Team, our hardworking CNMI ambassadors to the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei. Please come support your national baseball team in their quest for the gold at the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei," said Igitol.

Tickets can be purchased from any of the following SBL board members and/or team members: Rose Igitol (287-1129), Tony Rogolifoi (285-3966/234-6672), Bernard Cabrera (287-7252), and A.J. Murig or at the following: MARPAC Office in Gualo Rai (234-7113), KKMP Radio (233-1440), and KSPN2 (Bob Coldeen). ***(PR)***

ME Fundraising Golf Tournament this Saturday

The CNMI chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter is pleased to announce a fundraising golf tournament this Saturday, May 10, 2014 at the Mariana Country Club.

Registration begins at 11am with a shotgun start at 12noon. The $75 entry fee includes cart, beverages, snacks and an awards party immediately following the tournament.

The ME Fundraising Golf Tournament is to help subsidize the next ME Weekend from June 27 to 29, 2014, at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

A few slots are still available for interested couples. The ME Weekend fee is $100 per couple and includes two nights, five meals, and all materials. The ME Weekend is intended for happily married couples who wish to enhance their relationship through improved communication. It also allows couples to spend true quality time with their spouses for one getaway, romantic weekend.

For more information about the golf tournament and/or the ME Weekend, contact Joe and Reyna Saures at 285-9247 or Jay and Joyce Santos at 285-5466. ***(PR)***

'IT'S

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cerning facilities) to stage the Games here," Minogue said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The Commonwealth is proposing the Oleai Sports Complex as the main venue for the various competitions, while athletes will be housed at Marianas High School and Hopwood Junior High School. The CNMI is also offering 12 sports for the Mini Games and the list includes athletics, badminton, golf, tennis, canoe racing, volleyball (indoor and beach), baseball, sailing, swimming, triathlon, weightlifting, and wrestling.

After visiting the facilities for the Mini Games, Minoque and Lakhan talked with Northern Marianas Amateur Sports officials and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider and the former said the meeting was fruitful.

"NMASA knows the process (hosting the Games) and it did a great job in preparing another bid after nearly winning in 2011," Minogue said.

The CNMI lost to Vanuatu in the hosting battle for the 2017 Mini Games. The Commonwealth and Vanuatu got eight votes apiece in the first round of the selection held in New Caledonia three years ago and eliminated Nauru, which gained only six votes. In the second round, the CNMI received only nine votes versus the 13 of Vanuatu to fall short in its first bid to bring the Games to the Commonwealth.

"The CNMI through NMASA had a solid bid in 2011 and it drew a lot of support. Though it lost to Vanuatu, the CNMI sent a strong signal to other PGA members that the island is determined to host the Mini Games. This year several other countries showed interest in bidding for the 2021 Mini Games, but it was only the CNMI that eventually submitted a bid and that indicates it's time for the Games to come to the CNMI," said Minogue.

The PGC executive director added that the CNMI government's support to the bid will be crucial in ensuring the success of the first-ever Mini Games to be held here.

"We met with the lieutenant governor and spelled out the obligation of the government in staging the Games here. Just like in 2011, the CNMI government is fully supportive of the bid. The government and NMASA will be working as partners in bringing a successful Mini Games in the CNMI. They will need to sign a contract with us (PGC) in July this year to make the hosting official," Minoque said.

Before the contract signing, NMASA president Michael White said they will have to make a formal presentation of the CNMI bid to the council meeting in July at Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea.

"We will prepare for the formal presentation of our bid to the council at its meeting on July 4 and 5 in Port Moresby. As we are the only bidder, we expect that the Games will be awarded to us. After the host country agreement is signed at the conclusion of the PGC meeting, we will form an organizing committee and start assigning responsibility for tasks which have to be addressed as early as possible," White said.

TOKA

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digit lead in the remaining three quarters with its balance scoring, while Litulumar had only Ryan Manglona helping him out on offense. Three Toka players finished in double figures with Preston Basa registering 18 points and Barcinas and Jason Lampkin chipping in 14 each. Ezara Caro, Kobe Mendoza, and Jimmy Tudela combined for 25 points. Litulumar had 12 to lead the Rebels, while Manglona added 11.

Meanwhile, in the first game the Rollers barged into the win column, following a 79-68 victory over the slumping Hoopaholics (1-5).

C.J. Morales top-scored in the Rollers' first triumph in three matches, firing 26 markers. His 9 markers in the pivotal third period helped the Rollers turned a 31-33 halftime deficit to a 54-47 advantage, going into the final quarter. In the payoff period, Morales paid the Hoopaholics from fouling him, as he nailed seven straight charities to notch 10 more points in that frame.

Mike Arciaga and Mike Espinosa contributed 15 and 13 points, respectively, to back up Morales, while Alex Lauron led the Hoops' losing cause with his 23 points.

First Game

Rollers 79 – Morales 26, Arciaga 15, Espinosa 13, Factor 6, Iglecias 5, Fidelino 4, Malonzo 3, Nakayama 2, Pangelinan 2.

Hoopaholics 68 – Lauron 23, Fitial 15, Tenorio 9, Itibus 9, Manibusan 6, Diaz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-14, 31-33, 54-47, 79-68.

Second Game

Toka 79 – Basa 18, Barcinas 14, Lampkin 14, Caro 9, Mendoza 8, Tudela 8, Lizama 4, Joyner 3.

Rebels 56 – Litulumar 12, Manglona 11, Norita 8, Babauta 6, Teregeyo 6, Chen 3, Matsutaro 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-11, 43-27, 62-43, 59-56.

CNMI

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members and officials of Northern Marianas Badminton Association showed video footages of actual games, explained basic rules, and demonstrated skills, movements, and techniques.

Marianas Baptist Academy principal Ramir Trinidad was among the participants in Shuttle Time and he found the sport interesting with its lots of movement.

"I am here with three of our teachers. We're all interested to learn the sport and hopefully teach them to our students. We're planning to include the sport in our P.E. classes," said Trinidad, saying as this time MBA has basketball, volleyball, and zumba in their P.E. classes.

"It's a good addition to our P.E. classes, we have fifth and sixth graders who would really love this sport," he added.

Besides MBA, Koblerville, Kagman, Garapan, Oleai, San Antonio, Dandan, and San Vicente elementary schools also sent their teachers to the Shuttle Time introduction session.

"This is a lot of fun, our kids will love this because they are so active and they can use their energy in this activity," said Benny Norita, who works with students with special needs in Kagman.

Meanwhile, Bleaken is encouraging interested individuals to register online for free resources of the program.

"They can register at www.bwfshuttletime.com and spread the word for others to do the same. I can't stress enough that Shuttle Time is available to everyone, so anyone can access teaching resources (teachers manual, lesson plans and video clips) because we want every child to have a chance to play badminton," Bleaken said.

The Oceania Badminton official added that the registration is crucial in determining how the federation can help schools in the promotion of the sport.

"When we get these numbers on the database we can identify how much equipment is needed in schools and donate equipment to meet the islands' needs," she said.

Bleaken also said that once Shuttle Time is embraced by the various schools in the CNMI, NMBA, the local governing body of the sport, will have a steady source of talents.

"Shuttle Time is hugely important to NMBA (the federation) and badminton in CNMI as the youth are the future, so focusing on developing them will provide a sustainable future for the sport here in the Commonwealth. It also helps take badminton into the community and because it is such an easy sport to learn, it is a great vehicle to get more people participate in physical activities and build healthy lifestyles," said Bleaken, who thanked NMBA and its president Jerry Tan for their commitment in delivering programs for the youth.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	16	14	.533	–
New York	17	15	.531	–
Boston	16	17	.485	1½
Toronto	16	17	.485	1½
Tampa Bay	15	18	.455	2½

Central Division

Detroit	19	9	.679	–
Chicago	17	17	.500	5
Minnesota	15	16	.484	5½
Kansas City	15	17	.469	6
Cleveland	14	19	.424	7½

West Division

Oakland	19	14	.576	–
Seattle	16	15	.516	2
Texas	17	16	.515	2
Los Angeles	16	16	.500	2½
Houston	10	23	.303	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	18	14	.563	–
Miami	18	15	.545	½
Washington	18	15	.545	½
New York	16	16	.500	2
Philadelphia	15	16	.484	2½

Central Division

Milwaukee	22	12	.647	–
St. Louis	17	17	.500	5
Cincinnati	15	17	.469	6
Pittsburgh	13	20	.394	8½
Chicago	11	20	.355	9½

West Division

San Francisco	21	12	.636	–
Colorado	21	14	.600	1
Los Angeles	19	15	.559	2½
San Diego	15	19	.441	6½
Arizona	12	24	.333	10½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMBA/Oceania Badminton Shuttle Time

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken shows a video footage of a badminton game during the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China as part of the learning session in Shuttle Time last Tuesday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken explains to participants what kind of feathers is used to make a shuttlecock.

A participant plays a short scrimmage.

A participant has all eyes on the shuttlecock.

A Kagman Elementary School teacher hits a low shot.

A participant warms up during a practical session.

A participant practices his smash shot.

Koblerville Elementary School's Francis Mendiola makes a return to a fellow participant during a short scrimmage.

Participants in Shuttle Time watch an actual game between Andreau Galvez and Jexler Caranto, not in the photo.

Balanced Heat take Game 1, top Brooklyn, 107-86
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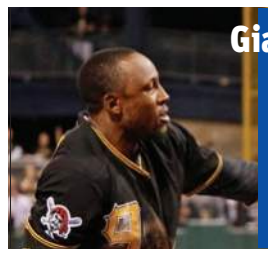
Saipan Tribune
Sports



Giants fall to Pirates on overturned call in 9th
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'It's time for Games to come to CNMI'

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Pacific Games Council executive director Andrew Minogue poses with the banner of the council during a visit to the office of Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White in Susupe yesterday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Games Council executive director Andrew Minogue believes it's time for the Mini Games to come to the CNMI.

Minogue, along with PGC president Vidhya Lakhan conducted a two-day (Monday and Tuesday) site visit to the sports facilities and accommodation on Saipan to assess the Commonwealth's capability to host the 2021 edition of the quadrennial competition.

"We are very pleased with what we saw. The facilities are operational and are in good shape. There's not a lot to do (con-

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Toka tames Rebels; Rollers gets first win

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Toka's Jack Lizama drives against three Rebels defenders during the first quarter of their game in the QQ caging last Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

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REPORTER

Toka caught fire early to torch the Rebels, 79-56, during the second game in the 2014 QQ Rent A Car Invitational Basketball League last Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

A torrid 17-0 run was all Toka needed to put away the Rebels and gain its fourth victory in five games for a tie for second place with defending champion Blue Haus. The Rebels remained winless in three matches.

Dan Barcinas led Toka's jackrabbit start, as he drilled 8 of the team' first 17 markers. He started the match by picking the pocket of Rebels guard Zack Babauta for a breakaway layup. The Rebels then committed back-to-back errors early, as Roy Norita lost the ball while dribbling near the left sideline and calling the play for his squad.

Rebels coach Joe Diaz called a quick timeout to settle his boys down, but not the pumped-up Toka players, who scored 15 more points after Barcinas' first basket. Finally, after going scoreless and committing a lot of booboos for about four minutes the Rebels broke into the board with a point-blank shot from Freddie Litulumar, who recovered from a fumble for the squad's first basket.

Litulumar then hit a short jumper one minute later and was the only Rebels player to make more than one field goal, as Toka continued its scintillating start en route to a 29-11 advantage at the end of the first period.

Toka protected the double-

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CNMI teachers take part in Shuttle Time

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Forty CNMI teachers attended Badminton World Federation's Shuttle Time held last Tuesday at the TSL Sports Complex.

No less than Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken facilitated the two-hour introduction to BWF's program launched in 2012 and she was ecstatic with the big turnout and the reception of the participants.

"Wow! I am stoked with the turnout tonight. I was definitely not expecting so many teachers and they were all really enthusiastic, it was a fantastic session," said Bleaken.

The visiting official explained that Shuttle Time is an innovative, self-study training program. It has a range of training resources that have been developed to help teachers and coaches learn the "how-to" teach badminton to children and youth in a safe and fun environment.

During the session, Bleaken through the assistance of some

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken demonstrates to CNMI teachers how to serve during the Shuttle Time session at the TSL Sports Complex last Tuesday afternoon.